

Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ



Issue 30: Spring/Summer 2022

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction since 1993



Interesting Animal Facts

Pigeons can count. The journal *Science* published a study in 2011 that concluded that pigeons are on par with monkeys in their ability to count. Researchers in the study found that the pigeons were able to rank nine separate images, each containing varied numbers of objects, in order based on the number of objects depicted, and they did this as well as monkeys. So much for the term "bird brain" being an insult!



Dolphins not only understand "currency", but also how to invest and gain a return on their "money".

At the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Mississippi, dolphin trainers decided to train the dolphins to clean their own tanks by offering them fish as a reward for bringing them trash. One of the dolphins, named Kelly, realized that she received the reward - one fish for one article of trash - no matter the size of the article of trash. She then began hiding pieces of trash under a rock, and when she would see one of the trainers, she would dive down and tear or break off smaller pieces of the trash, earning a separate fish for each of the smaller pieces.



One day, a bird landed in the tank and Kelly took it to the trainers. She received even more fish in exchange for the bird than for the trash! Afterward, Kelly began saving some of her fish and hiding it rather than eating it, then used it as bait to catch more birds, which in turn generated even more fish for Kelly! Not only this, but Kelly taught the other dolphins how to work the system as well!

Koala fingerprints are almost indistinguishable from human fingerprints. Despite the many and obvious differences between humans and koalas, the distinctive loops and arches of koala fingerprints are so similar to those of human fingerprints that police in Australia have had concerns that koala prints may have interfered with criminal investigations.



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For Fur-ther Information . . .

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You can find more information on our web site at pacsnj.org

- 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 Squirty" 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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Paws and Claws Society, Inc.

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Interesting Animal Facts

(Continued from page 1)



Prairie dogs kiss.

They greet each other by touching noses or locking teeth. This behavior helps them to distinguish friend from foe because locking teeth allows them to determine if they belong to the same group. Prairie dogs are territorial and will not allow members of other groups into their territory. If the prairie dogs determine that they are not from the same social group, they may fight after kissing.

(By the way, an image search on the Internet with the words "prairie dogs kiss" brings up some seriously adorable photos!)



Many animals use tools.

(No, not these kinds of tools.)

Once upon a time, it was the common belief of scientists that the use of tools was what separated humans from other animals. Many animals have been found to use tools, however.

Among them:



Chimpanzees:

In the first ever recorded use of a tool by a non-human species,

Jane Goodall in 1960 found evidence of wild chimpanzees "termite fishing". This is done either by using a stem of grass or by breaking a twig from a tree and removing the leaves, then poking the stem or twig into a termite nest, pulling it out once several termites have bitten into it, attaching themselves to it. The chimps then scoop the termites into their mouths. Kenyan-British

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Burlington The Cat Donates Blood



Hello. Burlington here.

Have you ever had to face a seemingly *unfaceable* fear? A fear that made you

feel paralyzed; the thought of said fear leaving you gasping for breath? A fear that you would have happily left *unfaced* if the end result were not so darned important?

Sigh So have I.

I know . . . you may be saying, "What? *You*, Burlington? *You've* felt that kind of fear?"

Contrary to my outward image as a brave, fearless . . . Pardon me. Jersey is interrupting.

What is it, Jersey?

I don't think everyone sees you as brave and fearless.

What? Of course they do!

Hmmmm . . . I don't think so.

Well . . . ahem . . . regardless of what you think, Jersey, cats are overwhelmingly perceived as fearless.

Not the ones that are scared of cucumbers.

Stop that laughing right now!

Sorry.

Just think about the king of the jungle.

The what?

The king of the . . . oh, Jersey. I'm talking about the lion. The lion.

Oh! Ok. What about it?

Everyone knows a lion is fearless. Fearless, and bold. A force to be reckoned with.

Yes, that's true.

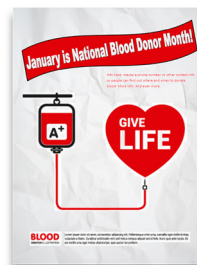
Well, a lion is a . . . what?

Umm . . . ah . . . a king?

A CAT, Jersey! It's a cat.

Oh, yes. A cat. You're right.

Anyway, the time I faced that seemingly unfaceable fear was many years ago now, when I was a young adult cat.



It was in January of that year, and Mom had come home with a flyer that someone had left at the book store. The flyer was from the local blood bank, announcing

that January is National Blood Donor Month.

"I'm going to donate blood," Mom had explained to Dad when he found the flyer on the kitchen counter.

Dad picked up the flyer and read it. After a moment, he said, "Ok. I'll donate, too."

Jersey and I sat just inside the kitchen where our food and water bowls are kept as we eavesdropped on their conversation.



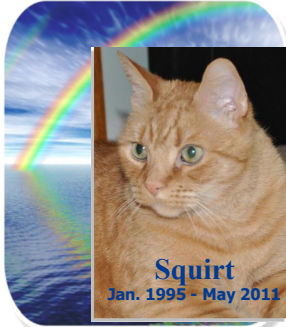
"Really?" Mom said, her eyebrows raised.

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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: Is it safe for pets to play with soap bubbles?

Answer: Yes, as long as the soap is a non-toxic formula.

Dogs love playing with bubbles and this is a great activity for them as they may want to begin spending more time outdoors during warm-weather months. This may be a bit more challenging with cats, who should be kept indoors, because you'll want to be careful with soap bubbles around certain surfaces and furnishings inside your home. However, in the right room with the right surroundings (perhaps even a screened patio), your cat can enjoy bubbles, too!

Bubbles provide a great form of exercise for your cat or dog and encourage them to use their brain and body in unison.

One safe way to make bubbles is to use dishwashing liquid made with non-toxic ingredients. There are also bubble soaps available for purchase that are made with catnip oil specifically for cats, and others that are dog-friendly.

Multiple recipes can be found on the Internet to make your pet's bubbles more interesting and to give them a more enticing scent or taste. (See our web site for some links.)

You'll want to mix the non-toxic soap with water, and you can add a small amount of glycerin or corn syrup to thicken the solution and make the bubbles last longer. You can also add a bit of bone broth (for dogs) or a small amount of catnip oil (for cats). *Note: When purchasing catnip oil, be careful to make sure it is safe for cats! Believe it or not, there are catnip oils out there that are not safe for cats. (Catnip essential oil is sometimes used homeopathically by humans for stress relief and as a sleep aid.) Use caution and read all labels.*

Bubbles can be created using a bubble machine or the old-fashioned way, with a bubble wand.

Have fun!

Peace, Love, and Head-Butts.

Squirty



Interesting Animal Facts

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paleoanthropologist and archaeologist Louis Leakey, whose work involved the study of human evolution, famously responded to a telegram from Goodall about her discoveries by saying, "Now we must redefine tool, redefine Man, or accept chimpanzees as humans." More recently, researchers have discovered a cultural diversity in the ways that wild chimpanzee communities fish for termites. Another example of chimps using tools involves stone hammers dating back 4,300 years that were found by a University of Calgary archaeologist at a chimpanzee settlement in the Ivory Coast in 2006. The stones were used to crack nut shells. Starch residue found on the stones were from several types of nuts that, while not part of the human diet, are known to be staples in the chimpanzee diet.

Sea Otters: For millions of years, sea otters have been using tools to pry open oyster shells.



They place the shells on their stomachs and use rocks (often sharp or pointed rocks) to smash the shells open. They have also been observed using stones to hammer abalone shells from rocks and to open snail shells. Sea otters have favorite rocks that they store in "pockets" formed by loose skin under their forearms.

Dolphins: In Australia's Shark Bay, a group of bottlenose dolphins wears



marine sponges on their beaks to protect themselves from being injured by sharp stones or other dangers while uncovering prey by

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Word-Search Puzzle: Pet Food & Treats

This issue's Word Search Puzzle contains 31 words that are either types of pet foods or nicknames that pet parents often use for pet food or treats. Can you find all of them? Visit our web site, pacsnj.org, to see the completed version of this puzzle or to solve the puzzle online.

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

Word List:

- | | | | | | |
|---------|------------|---------|----------|---------|------------|
| BISCUIT | COOKIES | FLAKES | HARDTACK | PATE | SUET |
| BITES | CRACKER | FRUIT | HAY | PELLETS | TREAT |
| BONE | CRUNCHIES | GOODIES | KIBBLE | SEED | VEGETABLES |
| CANNED | CUTTLEBONE | GRASS | MEAL | SHREDS | WET FOOD |
| CHEWS | FEED | GRUB | MUNCHIES | SNACKIE | YUMMIES |
| CHOW | | | | | |



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Burlington The Cat

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Dad put the flyer back on the counter.

"Sure. Why do you seem surprised?"

Mom shrugged. "Well, only because you hate having blood drawn."

I glanced at Jersey. We both hated when the vet would draw our blood, too. Jersey returned my glance with a look of understanding in her eye.

Mom went on. "I mean, you even passed out that one time."

"Just once," Dad said, "and that was because the phlebotomist stuck me three times before getting a good vein."

Out of the corner of my eye, I saw Jersey shudder.

"I know," I told her, "That sounds horrid."

My stomach developed butterflies, but not the good kind, and they'd begun turning backflips at the mere thought.

Mom began her regular evening kitchen routine, which starts with feeding us. As she scooped Jersey's dog food into her bowl, she stopped and turned to us, her expression indicating that an idea had occurred to her.

While looking at us, she spoke to Dad. "Burlington and Jersey could probably donate blood, too!"

Remember those butterflies I mentioned? They turned into Cirque du Soleil performers.

I. Hate. Needles.

"I'll do it," Jersey said, but of course Mom and Dad only heard

her words in the form of a couple little barks.

Mom was already on her phone, looking up our vet's web site.

"Awww," she said, sounding disappointed.

My ears perked up. Maybe they were overstocked on cat blood and didn't need anymore.

Mom turned to Dad. "It doesn't look like small dogs can donate blood."

Jersey whined a sad whine. So did I, but mine was more of an internal whine, because . . . well, cats are very big on remaining dignified wherever possible.

"Really?" Dad asked, "How large to they have to be?"

Mom typed and swiped on her phone for a few minutes while we all watched in quiet anticipation. Finally, she "Hmm"d.



Dad leaned closer to look at her phone. "What?"

She looked up at him and shrugged. "Different web sites list different minimum weights for dogs. I saw 35 pounds, 45 pounds, even 25 kilograms on one site from the UK."

"How many pounds is 25 kilograms?"

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Interesting Animal Facts

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stirring ocean-bottom sand. Some dolphins are known to scoop up prey with shells, serving it into their mouths as if with a spoon.

Orangutans: In the wild, orangutans have been seen using sticks to measure the depth of



water. They also use branches and sticks to dig seeds out of fruit or to pry insects out of trees. They use leaves the way a human would use gloves when touching prickly plants. Leaves are also used as umbrellas when it's raining or, rolled into tubes, as megaphones to amplify their calls.

Alligators and Crocodiles: Both



the American alligator of the southern United States and the mugger crocodile of India have been observed luring local birds such as herons or egrets during nesting season by gathering sticks on their heads and then waiting for the birds, who think the sticks are floating on the water, to swoop down and become their dinner.

New Caledonian

crows: Similar to "termite fishing" practiced by chimpanzees, New Caledonian crows (*Corvus moneduloides*)



have been observed "larva fishing" by using sticks to poke insects in tree bark until the insects bite the stick in defense and can then be drawn out of the bark. The birds may also fish using grass or other plant stems, feathers, or even

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Interesting Animal Facts

(Continued)

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garden wire left behind by humans. Sometimes these tools are more or less straight and sometimes the birds modify them to add a hook or forked end. Young birds in the wild are generally taught how to make stick tools by their elders, however a New Caledonian crow named "Betty" who had been raised in a lab by humans and had no prior experience with tools was filmed improvising a hooked tool from wire on her own. New Caledonian crows have also been observed using a shorter tool to reach a less-accessible longer one, and that longer one to reach one that is even longer and even less accessible, and this longest tool enables them to reach food that couldn't be reached with the original shorter tool.



Elephants: Asian elephants modify branches and use them to swat flies or scratch themselves. The

most common style of modification is to hold the main stem with the front foot and pull off a side branch using the trunk. Elephants have also been seen digging holes to drink water, then making a "plug" for the hole by chewing bark ripped from a tree until it forms the shape of a ball. They then cover the plug with sand, which helps to prevent evaporation, and will return to the same spot later for another drink. A captive male Asian elephant was seen moving a box into position so that he could stand on it to reach food that had been deliberately hung out of his reach. Elephants have also been observed dropping large rocks onto electric fences to cause damage that de-electrifies the fence.

Alternatives to "Cone of Shame" For Pets

Recent research has determined that the Elizabethan collar, also called the e-collar, cone collar, recovery collar, or jokingly called the "cone of shame", can actually cause pets to become depressed or even injured.



The Elizabethan collar, named for its similarity to the elaborate pleated collars known as ruffs worn by Queen Elizabeth, is a plastic half-circle that folds into a cone shape, similar to a lampshade, and is used after injuries or surgical procedures to prevent pets from licking or biting wounds or sutures.

The downsides, found in a study by researchers in the Sydney School of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney, include distress (for both pets and their owners), possible injury, and damage to furniture and other objects from being accidentally bumped or run into by a cone-wearing pet.

Fortunately, there are alternatives.

An Internet search for "alternatives to Elizabethan collar" returns results of many options. It's important to read fully about each alternative you may be considering, weighing the pros and cons and taking into consideration your pet's personality and level of tenacity as well as the location of the wound.

Alternatives include:

- Inflatable collars which resemble the neck-pillows used by humans for napping on airplanes or in cars. These are inflated and your pet's collar is threaded inside the pillow. Some versions include a strap that goes around the chest to prevent the pet from pulling the collar off.
- Recovery suits which can be compared to a human baby's bodysuit. These cover the torso and has a flap under the tail that can be un-snapped and rolled up for potty breaks. This would likely not be a good option for a cat for that reason.
- Recovery sleeves made to cover one front leg or hip and thigh recovery sleeves for one of the back legs.
- Protection shirts with long sleeves.
- Modified cones which are not made of hard plastic and offer softer, more padded protection. These can still obscure vision, however, but are generally more comfortable.
- There is even a do-it-yourself option that can be made out of pieces of a pool noodle. See our web site for a link to the video.



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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Burlington The Cat

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"Just over 55 pounds."

"But why are the minimum weights so high for dogs if cats are able to donate blood?"

Mom shrugged. "That's what I was wondering."

She tapped on her phone screen again. "I think I'll call Joannie at Dr. Tails' office and ask her."

She did just that. We all heard Joannie's answer when Mom put her phone on speaker.

"When anyone donates blood, whether it is a cat, a dog, or a human, the amount of blood that can be drawn is just a percentage of that donor's total blood volume. Drawing too much blood could be harmful. Since the cats that receive the blood donated by other cats are fairly close in size to their donors, the amount of blood drawn for a donation is sufficient for a cat in need. The size of dogs varies so much, and a donation by a small dog wouldn't yield the volume needed by a medium or large dog. The cost of obtaining a blood donation - testing the blood for parasites and disease, along with the cost of the collection materials - makes it much more efficient to take larger donations from larger dogs than to take donations from the number of small dogs it would require to end up with the same amount of blood."

That made sense.

Still, Jersey was disappointed that she could not donate, but I reminded her of all the great things she does to help others and that seemed to comfort her.

And that left *me*. The nervous

feelings I'd already had were increasing by the minute as I listened to Mom making an appointment while she spoke with Joannie.

"Yes," Joannie said, "That would be great. Burlington is in excellent health and would make an ideal blood donor."

Mom scheduled the appointment for the end of the week, said her goodbyes, and hung up.

After a few days of trying not to think about what was coming and Jersey doing everything possible to distract me from my thoughts, Mom packed me into my carrier and off we went to Dr. Tails' office.

When we got there, Joannie greeted us and began explaining what was going to happen.

"Burlington will be given a light sedative for the procedure."

Mom asked, "That's not the same as anesthesia, right?"

"Correct. Sedation carries less risk than anesthesia because the level of unconsciousness is not as deep. Burlington will be relaxed and he won't feel the needle. He'll be placed on his side and Dr. Tails will draw about 4 tablespoons of blood from his jugular vein. Afterward, Burlington will be given subcutaneous fluids to keep him hydrated."

We waited our turn and then we were called to go into the exam room. Dr. Tails petted me and fussed over me as he usually does. That part was nice, and it helped to calm my fears.

He gave me the sedative and the next thing I knew, I was waking up from the most restful sleep I'd had

in days. I was so relaxed that I was temped to go back to snoozing for a few more minutes, but one of the vet techs started rubbing my ears and talking sweetly to me.



"You're a hero, Burlington!", she said, "Your donation may save a life one day!"

Well. I'd been so focused on my nerves that I hadn't thought of the fact that this could help another cat in need.

Soon, I was back in my carrier and on the way home with Mom. I felt fine and even wondered why I had been so worried.

In fact, I went on to donate multiple times over the years until I reached the maximum age of eight years.

There was one thing that was different about me after that first time, however. On my collar was a brand-new heart-shaped tag that Joannie gave to Mom before we left. In the center of the heart, a single word was inscribed:



Hero.



Burlington is a fictional gray/silver 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!



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Burlington Reports Issue 30: Spring/Summer 2022

A Spring Reminder: Lilies Are Toxic to Cats

It's a caution important enough to bear repeating.

From the FDA web site:

*“Lilies in the ‘true lily’ and ‘daylily’ families are **very dangerous for cats**. The entire lily plant is toxic: the stem, leaves, flowers, pollen, and even the water in a vase. Eating just a small amount of a leaf or flower petal, licking a few pollen grains off its fur while grooming, or*

drinking the water from the vase can cause your cat to develop fatal kidney failure in less than 3 days. The toxin, which only affects cats, has not been identified. Dogs that eat lilies may have minor stomach upset but they don't develop kidney failure.”

