

Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ



Issue 31: Fall/Winter 2022

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction since 1993

fall / winter 2022



For Fur-ther Information . . .

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

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 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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Interesting Animal Facts

Animals That Mate For Life:

Humans aren't the only animals who vow "til death do us part" to their significant others. Here are 15 animals who mate for life:

1. The **Albatross**, also sometimes called a Gooney Bird, is a very large oceanic bird found widely in the Southern Ocean and North Pacific. Most Albatross species live for more than 50 years, reaching sexual maturity after about five years but not beginning to breed until a few years after that, some waiting as long as ten years. When looking for a mate, they perform intricate courtship dances which include whistling, honking, and chattering with their beaks. Once they find their mate, they form a pair bond that lasts for the lifetime of the pair.
2. Another sea bird, the **Atlantic Puffin** or common puffin, is the only puffin native to the Atlantic Ocean. Year after year, the Atlantic Puffin reunites with the same partner and they begin clear-





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Interesting Animal Facts

(Continued from page 1)

ing out the nesting burrow from the previous year, preparing it for a new nesting season. Atlantic Puffins engage in courtship behavior through a practice called billing, which involves wagging their heads from side to side and rattling their beaks together. Both parents share in the incubation of the eggs and caring for their young.

3. The **Bald Eagle**, a North American bird of prey, is also believed to be monogamous, however, if one of the partners dies or disappears, the other will find a new mate. Likewise, if a pair is unable to breed successfully, they may part and seek new mates.



4. **Barn Owls** are the most widely distributed species of owl in the world (and among the most widely distributed of all birds). The barn owl is also usually monogamous, staying with one partner for life unless one of the pair dies.



5. While many of the monogamous animals on this list are birds, not all of them are! **Beavers**, those cute rodents with the long sharp teeth who are known for building dams, form families made up of two parents and their offspring who all live together. Family members maintain bonds between them by engaging in mutual grooming and play fighting. Newborns are cared for primarily by their mother and older siblings, while the father's job is to maintain their territory.

(Continued on page 3)

Burlington and Jersey Talk Poop



Hello, Burlington here.

There is a topic that many humans don't talk about very often because they seem to feel that it's rather delicate. Jersey and I, however, view it as simply a part of life and we are often puzzled by the conflicting ways our humans approach the subject.

I'm speaking, of course, about poop.

Poop, feces, stool, number two . . . Whatever you like to call it, it says a lot about your health and one should not have to be embarrassed to talk about it.



Why, then, as Jersey pondered one morning during one of our endless conversations about the weird things humans say or do, do Mom and Dad use their excited voice when Jersey asks to go outside (for example, often spoken in baby talk: "You have to poop? What a good girl! Ok, let's go poop!"), yet when one of *them* needs to poop, they just go into the bathroom and then come back out when they're finished, never uttering a word about it?

Perplexing, indeed.

"They don't even get a cookie for it," Jersey said, shaking her head in wonder.

I added my own questioning thought to the mix. "And for some reason, they're obsessed with collecting our poop, even though they make their own."

Jersey nodded. "Ours must be extra special in some way. Valuable, even. That's why they get so excited about it. They buy special bags to collect mine when we go for a walk, and Dad picks

it up from the back yard after I've been out there."

"They have a special box where I leave mine for them," I said, "And they sift it out like they're panning for gold."

"What do you suppose they do with it after they collect it?" Jersey wondered.

It was my turn to shake my head. "Sell it, maybe?"

Jersey thought about this for a moment. "But who would buy it?"

After another moment, she had an idea. "Dr. Tails usually asks for some."

Ah. I hadn't thought of our veterinarian. Mom usually takes little baggies with some of our poop when we visit the vet.

"Not very much, though," I said, "And the doctor uses it for tests, which likely destroys any resale value."

We both sighed. We simply did not know the answer to this question. Humans can be very confusing at times, but we love them anyway.

Human-behavior mysteries aside, though, poop truly contains a wealth of information. Cats and dogs learn a lot about ourselves and each other, and even our humans, through scent and observation of body language, but people aren't as good at using their sensory tools in this way, so they often rely on medical testing to monitor health. Either way, poop is a common

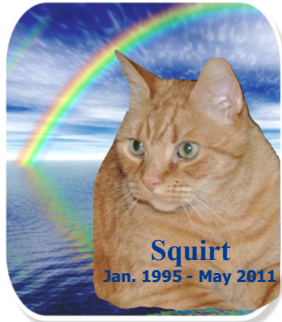


(Continued on page 4)



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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: My vet says my cat may be overgrooming. What does this mean and what should I do?

Answer: Grooming refers to the licking or biting performed by a cat while bathing. Overgrooming is when a cat bathes more often than is necessary, causing discomfort, hair loss, or even sores or infection as a result.

There are many possible reasons a cat may do this.

Grooming causes the release of endorphins, which are hormones that make the cat happy. Because of this, cats will often begin grooming not only to be clean, but also as a way to relax and feel good when they are stressed, anxious, itchy, or otherwise don't feel well.

Some possible causes of overgrooming can include:

- Food allergies or sensitivities - Has your cat begun eating a different type of food or treats recently? If so, try reverting back to the last combination of food and treats that your cat was eating before the overgrooming began. If the problem stops, check out the ingredients in the new food to try to determine what is the culprit.
- Parasites - Did your vet find evidence of fleas or other parasites? If so, treating the issue may stop the overgrooming.
- Stress - There are many different things that can be stressful for a cat, such as:
 - a change in their family life or environment (re-arranging of furniture, changing the location of litter boxes or food dishes moving to a new address, etc.)

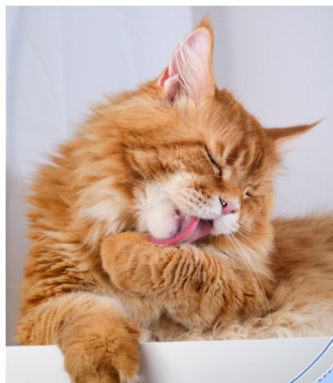
No, not this kind of grooming.



Still, no...



Yes, this is a cat grooming.



(Continued on page 7.)

Interesting Animal Facts

(Continued from page 2)

6. The **Coyote**, a species of canine native to North America, is strictly monogamous. Females that don't have mates often help their sisters or mothers with the raising of pups until they are paired with their own mate.



7. **Dik-Diks** are a type of very small antelopes that stand between 12" and 15.5" tall at the shoulders and live in eastern or southern



Africa. Pairs spend about 64% of their time together and are monogamous. The female gives birth to a single fawn and may have up to two pregnancies each year.

8. The **Diplozoon Paradoxum** is a flatworm commonly found on the gills of European fish in the carp or minnow family. Females and males meet as adolescents and their bodies literally fuse together, remaining that way until death, making them completely monogamous for life.



9. **Gibbons**, apes native to tropical and subtropical rainforests, are the fastest of all tree-dwelling, nonflying mammals. Also called the lesser apes or small apes, gibbons often form long-term pair bonds, unlike most of the great apes, and frequently retain the same mate for life. They do not always remain sexually monogamous, however. Occasionally some pair-bonded gibbons "divorce".



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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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Interesting Animal Facts

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10. Lovebirds are among the smallest parrots and can be found both in the wild and as pets. They live in small flocks and are known for their monogamous pair bonding and long periods of time spent sitting together.

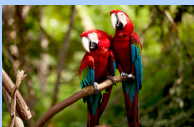
11. The **Pigeon**, also known as the rock dove, may have been the first bird species to be domesticated, possibly as early as 6,500 years ago! They have been used by humans to carry messages for thousands of years. In fact, more than 3,000 years before the United States was founded, pigeons carried the news of the coronation of Egyptian King Ramses III. Pigeons mate for life, but if one partner dies the other generally will attempt to find another mate.



12. **Sandhill Cranes** are large cranes native to North America and extreme northeastern Siberia. They are fairly social birds, living in pairs or family groups through the year. After leaving their parents at approximately 10-12 months of age, the chicks form nomadic flocks with other juveniles and nonbreeders, where they remain until they form breeding pairs at between two and seven years old. Breeding pairs mate for life, only seeking a new mate if one of the pair dies.



13. **Scarlet Macaws** are large red, yellow, and blue parrots from Central and South America. They communicate pri-



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indicator of so many things.

I said to Jersey, "I've listened to Dr. Tails talking to many patients' families over the years. Do you know how many things they can learn by testing a fecal sample?"

She shook her head, so I proceeded to tell her.

- They can detect intestinal parasites like roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms, whipworms, coccidia, and giardia.
- Unusual odors or the presence of blood or mucus can indicate inflammation in the intestines.
- Very dark or black stools in dogs can indicate bleeding in the stomach or upper intestines.
- Foreign objects like gravel, twigs, or household objects like crayons or plastic tells them that an animal is chewing on potentially harmful things or may have a condition called Pica, which is a habit of eating non-nutritive items.
- Watery stools indicate intestinal inflammation, while very hard and crumbly stools point to constipation and possibly dehydration.
- In cats, a stool with a yellow or orange hue can indicate gallbladder or liver problems. A green hue may be a sign of a bacterial infection, eating grass, or parasites, but could be normal.
- Large clumps of fur in a cat's stool may indicate overgrooming. Overgrooming is generally caused by either

Burlington The Cat

stress or something medical such as skin allergies or skin parasites.*

*See Squirry's Words on page 3 for more on overgrooming.

"That's a lot of information!" Jersey said, and it certainly is.

After several minutes, Jersey whispered, "I wonder . . ." and then stopped talking.

"You wonder what?"

"I wonder if . . ."

"What is it, Jersey?"

"Well, you know how dogs love to eat cat poop?"

I rolled my eyes.

"Yes?"



Finally, she got to the point. "Is that Pica? Do I have an abnormal condition?"

"No, Jersey. That's actually called coprophagia," I explained. "And as gross as it may seem to the rest of us, it's not abnormal for dogs."

"Really?" She seemed relieved.

"The diet of most cats is typically higher in protein than dog food,

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Word-Search Puzzle: Common Talking-Button Words

There is a growing number of social media accounts sharing videos of pets (dogs, cats, even a pig and a horse!) using talking buttons to communicate with their people. (See the article about this in our [Fall/Winter 2021](#) issue.) This puzzle contains 75 words that are commonly seen in popular talking pet videos. If you follow any of these pets, can you guess which accounts these words came from? Visit our web site to see the completed puzzle or to solve the puzzle online.

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

Word List:

ALL DONE	CAR	GO	HUMAN	NO	PLEASE	SMELL	TUG	WINDOW
ANIMAL	COME	GOOD	HUNGRY	NOISE	POOP	SOUND	UGH	WORK
ATTENTION	CONCERNED	HAPPY	LATER	NOW	POTTY	SQUEAKER	UPSTAIRS	YES
BALL	COUCH	HAY	LOOK	OUCH	QUIET	TALK	WALK	
BIRDS	DAD	HELP	LOVE YOU	OUTSIDE	SAD	THANK YOU	WANT	
BLANKET	DREAM	HI	MAD	PARK	SCRITCHES	TODAY	WATER	
BONE	EAR	HMM	MOM	PAW	SEE	TOMORROW	WHAT	
BRUSH	FAMILY	HOME	MORE	PETS	SETTLE	TOY	WHERE	
BYE BYE	FRIEND	HUG	MOUSEY	PLAY	SLEEP	TREAT	WHY	



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Interesting Animal Facts

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marily through raucous honks but their vocal communication is highly variable. Macaws in captivity can mimic human speech adeptly. In the wild, they remain with one partner throughout their lives. The scarlet macaw typically lives for 40 to 50 years, but some have been known to live as long as 90 years.

14. **Swans** usually mate for life, though sometimes pairs do split, particularly after a nesting failure. If a



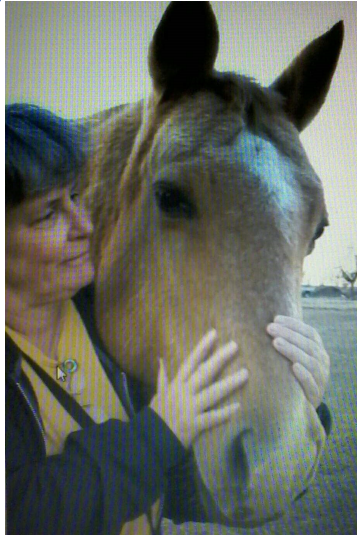
mate dies, the remaining swan will find another. Swan pair bonds are maintained year-round, even in migratory species that winter with large flocks. When reproducing, the male helps to construct the nest and will also take turns incubating the eggs. And, of course, swans look like they are in love; when they put their beaks together, their heads and necks form the shape of a heart!

15. **Titis, or Titi Monkeys**, live in South America, from Colombia to Brazil, Bolivia, Peru and northern Paraguay.



They mate for life and can typically be seen in pairs sitting or sleeping with tails entwined. They live in family groups of about two to seven, consisting of parents and their offspring. The fathers tend to spend more time with their infants than the mothers do, engaging in grooming, food-sharing, and playing. They carry the infants and take them to their mother for nursing only.

Artist Nicole Taylor Supports Retired Horses



A friend of Paws and Claws, Nicole Taylor is a veteran and retired child psychologist who is taking her ability to draw to the next level.

She and her childhood best friend take in retired horses and give them a comfortable and loving place to live out their final years.

Proceeds from her drawings support her in this mission to provide food, water, and medical care whenever necessary.

Nicole started drawing on a dare! Her art is loved by many, and she frequently sells out at the Kansas

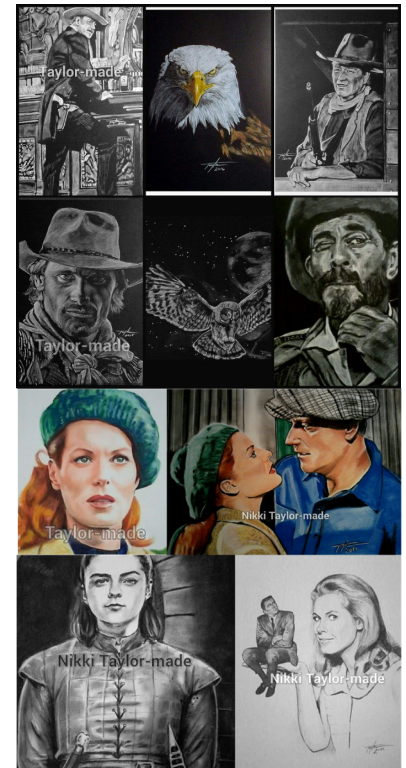
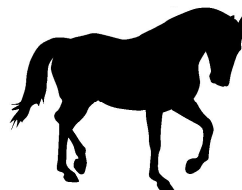
Dodge City Days roundup. She can draw just about anything, but refrains from human nude subjects.

Below is a snippet of some of her work.

She can add any likeness to a drawing, whether it be a pet to a portrait picture, or your daughter as a princess with a character from Frozen. A real movie buff, she loves to produce movie and TV actors! Imagine a media room covered in your favorite movies or musicians, or a special gift of a newly adopted pet!

Prices are very reasonable. Nicole can be reached via Facebook and Facebook Messenger. Her profile is: <https://www.facebook.com/taylornicole3661>.

Please help us to support these ladies by commissioning a unique piece of art!



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Squirty's Words (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

- other animals (inside or outside)
- placement of their food or litter in high traffic areas
- loud noises
- sharing resources with other cats (for instance, a cat may fear that they will run out of food if they share a bowl with another pet in the house)
- In addition, your pets can sense when one of their humans is feeling stressed and they may feel that stress as well. It's important to examine your cat's environment for any possible stressors and make changes where possible.
- Boredom - Although cats more commonly prefer getting into trouble when bored, sometimes boredom can lead to overgrooming. If you suspect your cat may be bored, try looking for some interactive toys (such as puzzle toys to provide the mental stimulation that their inner hunter loves) or making up games to play with them. Making sure your cat has space to run (think "zoomies") and room to play will help them to get the exercise they need.
- Medical problems - A checkup with the vet to rule out allergies or any other medical problems is always helpful.



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

Burlington The Cat

(Continued from page 4)

so you could say our poop is kind of like a protein bar for dogs."

Her eyebrows shot up.

"But that doesn't mean it's a good idea to eat cat poop."

"It doesn't?"

"No. You never know what kind of intestinal parasites you may pick up by doing that. Just ask Mom and Dad for a treat instead."

She looked disappointed, but nodded to confirm her agreement.

"Besides," I added quietly, "It makes your breath smell really rank."

She grinned a little.

"Touché."

"I think you mean Poo-ché."

That brought on a full laugh and was a great way to wrap up the conversation as Mom came in from work and announced excitedly that it was time for Jersey to go outside to go potty.



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!

Funnies





Paws and Claws
Society, Inc.

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October is Adopt-A-Shelter Dog Month

Every October, many organizations celebrate Adopt A Shelter Dog Month. If you aren't in a position to adopt a dog, what else can you do to help?

- Use your social media to help raise awareness by posting and sharing information. Use hashtag #AdoptAShelterDogMonth.
- Contact your local shelter or rescue group to ask how you can help. Sign up as a foster parent or shelter volunteer, then tell your friends how great it is.
- Contact your local shelters or rescue groups to ask what donated items they need. Even if you aren't able to donate, you can share their wish lists on social media or by posting flyers locally.
- Shop on AmazonSmile and 0.5% of your eligible purchases will be donated to the charitable organization of your choice. You can set a local shelter or rescue group as your choice. (See our website for more info.)



- Share an adoptable dog or a Petfinder dog-adoption Happy Tail on your blog, Facebook or Twitter (hashtag #savedogs) each day of the month.
- Add a Petfinder widget or banner to your web site or blog.
- And of course, if you are able, make a donation to your local shelter or rescue group.