

Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ



Issue 33: Fall/Winter 2023

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction since 1993

Fall / Winter 2023



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Quiz: Do you know which of these animals can swim?

There are some surprises when it comes to animals that can and cannot swim. Do you know which of these 21 animals can swim? (See page 2 for the answers.)

1. Aardvarks
2. Armadillos
3. Batfish
4. Bats
5. Camels
6. Chimpanzees
7. Giraffes
8. Gorillas
9. Hamsters
10. Hedgehogs
11. Hippos
12. Iguanas
13. Kangaroos
14. Llamas
15. Parrots
16. Peacocks
17. Pigs
18. Prairie Dogs
19. Rabbits
20. Sloths
21. Tortoises



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Answers to Quiz on page one

- Aardvarks: Yes** - Aardvarks have webbed feet and, while they may not be great swimmers, they are capable of staying underwater for short periods of time and are able to slowly move through water.
- Armadillos: Yes** - Armadillos have the ability to move through water and travel long distances across rivers and streams.
- Batfish: No** - *Whaaat? A fish that can't swim?* It's true. Batfish can breathe underwater and spend their lives underwater, but they cannot swim. They use their pectoral fins to walk across the sea floor.
- Bats: Yes** - There is contradictory information online about this, however, the discovery that bats can, in fact, swim, is apparently fairly new. Check out our "Links for Further Reading" section on our web site for YouTube videos of a bat swimming!
- Camels: Yes and No** - There is contradictory information online about this. While we found one site that stated that camels could swim due to their webbed feet, further searching uncovered that the purpose of their webbed feet is to keep the camel from sinking into the sand, not for swimming. There is one type of camel, however, that can swim. The Kharai camels of Kutch are the only camels known to swim.
- Chimpanzees: Yes and No** - There is contradictory information online about this. The argument in favor of their ability to swim says that, while they may not swim extremely well, they are able to swim well enough to keep from sinking, and that their large lungs allow them to dive un-



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Burlington The Cat on "Hot Spots"



Hello, Burlington here. Well, Summer is over, and this particular Summer came with some big changes and challenges for my family.

As you know, Mallory and Matthew are all grown up now, and they've moved out of Mom and Dad's house and into their own places. They still visit often (and don't tell anyone, but I still see both of them bringing their laundry to wash at our house from time to time), but they don't sleep at our house any longer and they took all of their belongings with them.

Mom has been talking, lately, about something called "empty nest syndrome". I thought a nest was where birds live, or wasps, or rabbits, or . . . did you know that dinosaurs built nests?

But I digress . . .

So Mom and Dad decided to do something called *downsizing*, which as it turns out, is not the same thing as when they went on that diet a few years ago and Mom got mad at Dad because he lost weight faster than she did.

What they actually meant was that they wanted to sell our house and buy a smaller one.

Which was fine in theory. It was fine when they started looking at listings online and came home talking about all the places they'd gone to see. It was fine when they were talking about the financial aspects of their decision and when they made lists of which furniture they wanted to take to the new house and which furniture they wanted to sell or donate.

When it came time for people to start walking through all the rooms in our house to decide if they wanted to buy it, Mom would take Jersey

and me to the book store during the day. She didn't want us to be too stressed by the presence of all those people, she said, but she wasn't thinking about the fact that we could smell them, so when we arrived home each evening, we *knew* how many people had been there.

Mom and Dad have company sometimes, and Jersey and I are used to people coming to our house, but this was different, and we knew it. We knew there was something happening that we didn't understand, and that was scary.

Then (yes, it gets worse), they began packing things in boxes, which doesn't sound so bad when you just say it, but let me tell you, it can be jarring to wake up from a nap and walk into the living room and see all of the bookshelves empty and not a single one of Mom's knick-knacks in sight. Granted, I've never had the same kind of attachment to those knick-knacks as Mom has. I mean, to me, they were just really fun to knock off of the tables and shelves, for the pure joy of watching them fall.

It's even more fun to nudge them, ever so slooowly, toward the edge, then stop for a beat, just long enough to make the humans think you've lost interest, and then BAM, push it over the edge!

Oh! I'm giggling, just thinking of it.

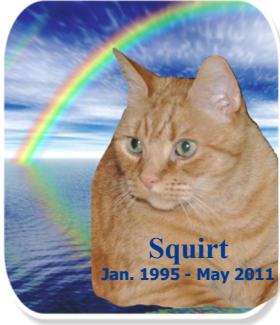


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Squirty's Words From The Rainbow Bridge



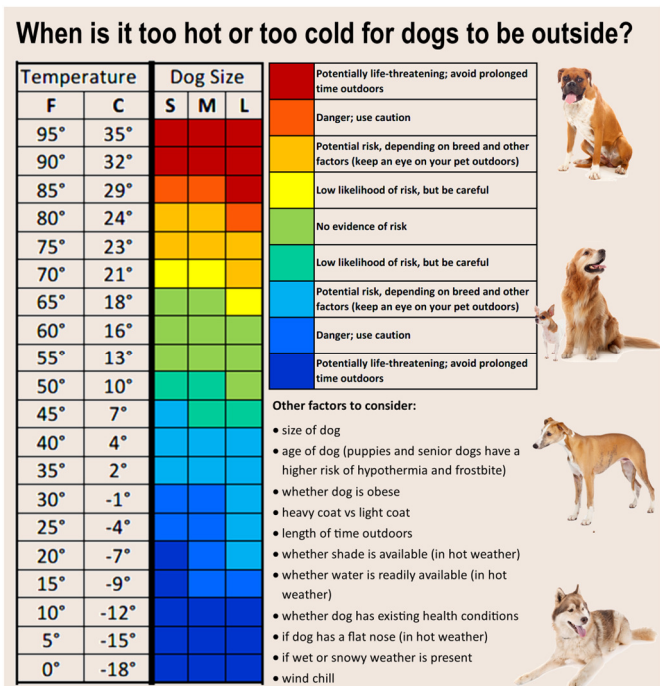
In memory of Squirty, a longtime friend of Paws and Claws Society who passed away on Mother's Day 2011 at the age of 16½, Burlington Reports added a new section to remember pets who have passed or to learn more about our animal family members. Ask Squirty a question or share your pet memorial story on 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: When is it too cold for my dog to go outside?

Answer: That's an important question as winter approaches again. There are multiple factors to consider when figuring out if the temperature is too extreme for dogs to be outside, such as the size and age of the dog, the type of coat they have, the overall health of the dog, and in hot weather, even things like the shape of the dog's nose!

When deciding if it is too cold out for a dog, consider a Siberian Husky, for instance. Their large body and double coat make it easy for them to withstand cold temperatures, while a small dog or a dog with short hair, like a Greyhound, doesn't tolerate the cold nearly as well.

This chart uses information collected from various sources online to provide a general guide for deciding when it is too cold (or too hot) for your dog to be outdoors.



Find the temperature on the left and look up the color in the column for the size of your dog. The key on the right tells you what each color represents, and the list below of other factors to consider can help you fine-tune your decision.

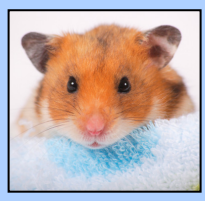
Much like people, every dog is individual. Some people are able to tolerate very hot or very cold conditions well, while others, who may be close in age

See "Links for Further Reading" on our web site, www.pacsnj.org, for the full-sized image of this chart.

Answers to Quiz on page one

(Continued from page 2)

- derwater for long periods of time. The argument against their being able to swim says that their bodies are mostly muscle and their low fat ratio makes it impossible for them to float, and their upper body strength makes them top-heavy. The mystery seems to be solved, however! See our "Links for Further Reading" section on our web site for a YouTube video of what is claimed to be the world's only swimming chimp.
- Giraffes: No** - While the prevailing opinion is that the long legs and long neck of a giraffe would cause them to not have enough energy for the process of swimming, a study involving a computer simulation of a giraffe suggests that they *should* be able to swim, though not well, but no one has ever seen one swim.
 - Gorillas: No** - The weight of their dense, muscular bodies, their lack of buoyancy, and their lack of motor movement prevent gorillas from being able to swim.
 - Hamsters: Yes** - While it's absolutely a *bad idea* to try to get your pet hamster to swim due to the possibility of illness or even death from a disease called "wet tail", they actually are able to swim if necessary. They do *not* prefer to swim, though, so if you have a pet hamster, please keep it safe and dry and do not ask it to swim.
 - Hedgehogs: Yes** - Hedgehogs can swim, thanks to the buoyancy of their needles. In fact, they are very good swimmers and love to doggy-paddle. Their long legs allow them to move easily through water, and they don't get wet because they don't have fur or feathers.



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Word-Search Puzzle: 35 Dolphin Species

Can you guess how many species of dolphins swim in the rivers, oceans, and seas of our planet? According to most scientists, there are more than 32 species of dolphins; some say as many as 40! Did you know that a porpoise is not a dolphin? This issue's puzzle contains the names of 35 dolphin species. Can you find them all? (And are you surprised to learn that the Orca, or Killer Whale, is actually a species of dolphin?) Visit our web site to see the completed puzzle or to solve the puzzle online.

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

See Word List on Page 5



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Word List (for Word-Search Puzzle on Page 4):

1. AMAZON RIVER DOLPHIN
2. ATLANTIC HUMPBACK DOLPHIN
3. ATLANTIC SPOTTED DOLPHIN
4. ATLANTIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN
5. AUSTRALIAN HUMPBACK DOLPHIN
6. AUSTRALIAN SNUBFIN DOLPHIN
7. BAIJI
8. CHILEAN DOLPHIN
9. CLYMENE DOLPHIN
10. COMMERSON'S DOLPHIN
11. COMMON DOLPHIN
12. DUSKY DOLPHIN
13. FRANCISCAN
14. AGANGES RIVER DOLPHIN
15. GUIANA DOLPHIN
16. HEAVISIDE'S DOLPHIN
17. HECTOR'S DOLPHIN
18. HOURGLASS DOLPHIN
19. INDIAN OCEAN HUMPBACK DOLPHIN
20. INDO-PACIFIC BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN
21. INDO-PACIFIC HUMPBACK DOLPHIN
22. INDUS RIVER DOLPHIN
23. IRRAWADDY DOLPHIN
24. NORTHERN RIGHT WHALE DOLPHIN
25. ORCA (KILLER WHALE)
26. PACIFIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN
27. PANTROPICAL SPOTTED DOLPHIN
28. PEALE'S DOLPHIN
29. RISSO'S DOLPHIN
30. ROUGH-TOOTHED DOLPHIN
31. SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALE DOLPHIN
32. SPINNER DOLPHIN
33. STRIPED DOLPHIN
34. TUCUXI
35. WHITE-BEAKED DOLPHIN

Burlington The Cat (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)

But to get back to the topic at hand . . . all of the tables and shelves were bare. Soon, the kitchen cabinets were empty. Next, it was closets and bathroom cabinets, and then even the furniture was being moved around, stacked up, and some of it disassembled.

As I mentioned before, it isn't that Jersey and I really care so much about decorations, books, or other belongings of our human family members, though we are both fond of napping on the furniture; it's the sudden change that we found so difficult. You know, you live in a house with your people for most of your life and you get used to the way things are. You grow to expect them to be the way they have always been. And when suddenly they aren't, well, you guessed it: anxiety set in.

I tried exploring the growing stacks of boxes. Even tried

napping on some of them, and while that *was* satisfying to a degree, particularly when the sun shining through the big window in the foyer just happened to blanket the stack where I slept in warm, bliss-inducing



light, it did not answer the question that continually nagged at my brain: *What was going on?*

Jersey's go-to method of dealing with anxiety is to whine and shake, which gets the attention of Mom and Dad, and they comfort her. They give her hugs and scratch her tummy and talk in that tone of voice that says

(Continued on page 6)



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Answers to Quiz on page one

(Continued from page 3)

11. **Hippos: No** - We've all seen photos of hippos hanging out in the water, but surprisingly enough, they can't actually swim. They have thick layers of fat that give them buoyancy and allow them to bounce, floating to the surface of the water for short lengths of time, but their extremely dense bones keep them from being able to actually swim.
12. **Iguanas: Yes** - Iguanas use their tail as a rudder to move through the water, allowing them to escape predators or reach food sources.
13. **Kangaroos: Yes** - Perhaps it is a surprise that kangaroos can swim, but unsurprisingly (due to their muscular back legs and tails), they are very strong swimmers! See the "Links for Further Reading" section on our web site for a YouTube video of a kangaroo swimming!
14. **Llamas: Yes** - Llamas use water to cool off as they are unable to regulate their own body heat and they are prone to heatstroke due to their thick fur. They aren't the greatest swimmers, but they do love the water, so long as they do not have to go below the water's surface (they hate getting their faces wet).
15. **Parrots: No** - Parrots do not have webbed feet and they lack the leg strength to tread water, making them unable to swim.
16. **Peacocks: No** - Like parrots, peacocks also do not have webbed feet. Their feathers get in the way, also, and they lack the ability to control their buoyancy, making



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Burlington The Cat (Continued)

(Continued from page 5)



everything is ok. And while I also love the comforting attention of my humans, I give fewer outward signs of my own anxiety, preferring, instead, to self-soothe. It's just what I do. I groom myself. Bathing and combing my fur with the bumps of my rough tongue, making sure every strand of hair in my striped coat is clean and lying down just-so, is relaxing. It makes me feel as if all is right with the world.

But when I groom more than usual, I run the risk of irritating my skin.

Soon I had a spot on my belly that was red and itchy, and of course the itching caused me to lick that spot even more in an attempt to relieve the itch, and before I knew it, my fur fell out in that area, the spot grew, and became painful. The fur around the area began to mat and cover part of the red spot.

Mom noticed this and took me to see our veterinarian.

"This is a Hot Spot," Dr. Tails told Mom.

He went on to explain that a Hot Spot, also known as acute moist dermatitis or pyotraumatic dermatitis, is a localized bacterial infection on the surface of the skin. It is one of the most common skin conditions in dogs, but is actually uncommon in cats.

"When something irritates the skin, it begins to itch, and when the animal scratches or chews to relieve the itch, the skin becomes inflamed and the chances for infection increase."

The cause of the initial irritation

can be varied.

"Anything from fleas and flea allergies; to cuts, rashes, or skin trauma; stress or boredom that causes licking or chewing; ear infection or anal gland infection; food allergies; matted fur or ongoing dampness from swimming or bathing; skin irritants; insect bites; or ringworm in cats . . ."

Mom nodded. "Stress, in Burlington's case."

She told Dr. Tails that we were in the process of moving and that she had noticed differences in my behavior and Jersey's as well.

"We'll be in our new place later this week," she said, "I think things should calm down for them once they adjust to being there."

Dr. Tails agreed and let Mom know that there are products available that help pets with stress, if the problem continues. In the meantime, he treated the Hot Spot by removing the matted hair and cleaning the affected area. He gave me a shot that he called "antibiotic" and prescribed some other medication for Mom to give to me at home while my Hot Spot healed. He called that medication "steroid".

A few days passed, and one morning, Dad put Jersey and me in our carriers and he and Mom carried us out to the car. After we were all settled in and the car started to move, Mom turned around to look at both of us in the back seat.

"We're going to our new house!"

She sounded excited, so we figured it must be a good thing.

It wasn't long before we arrived and they brought us inside and opened the doors to our carriers.

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Squirty's Words (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

and even have similar body types and sizes, may not tolerate extremes well at all. The better you know your dog and the better able you are to read your dog's body language cues, the better you will know what conditions are best for going outside.

Keep in mind, also, whether it is cold or hot outside, that your dog's paw pads aren't that different from your bare feet. If you would not want to walk barefoot outdoors, the chances are good that your dog may not like it either.

What can you do if you live in an area where winter temperatures are too cold for your dog, who needs to go outside for exercise or to go potty?

Limit time outdoors in extreme temperatures, and keep in mind that it's possible to buy products that help your dog brave the elements. A quick Internet search for "cold weather gear for dogs" will return a multitude of results showing sweaters, coats, rain gear, and even booties made for dogs, designed to keep them warm and toasty through the cold months.



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

Burlington The Cat (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

Jersey bounced out of hers with her tail flapping and started to run around, the sound of her toenails tapping on the wood floor of the entryway.

I made my way out of my own carrier and looked around. I could see the living room from my vantage point, and I recognized our couch! I crept closer. There were the bookshelves, and the tables . . . and yes . . . even a few of the knick-knacks!

The stacks of boxes were at the new place, too, but gradually they went away and more of the old familiar items popped up around the house.

Everything smelled like Mom and Dad and Jersey and me. The rooms weren't shaped the same way and the placement of the furniture was new, but it was ours, and it felt right, despite being different from before.

Best of all, Mallory and Matthew both

came over that first afternoon and stayed for a few hours. Even though their rooms did not exist in this alternate universe, it was ok. Our family was there and we were all together.

After lunch, I made my way to my bed, which was placed in front of a window that was new to me, yet still oddly comforting. And the sun rays that came through that window were fabulous.

Sure enough, over the next few weeks, my Hot Spot healed, my fur grew back, and the whole experience became just a memory.

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!

Answers to Quiz on page one

(Continued from page 6)

- them unable to swim.
- Pigs: Yes** - Pigs are able to swim well enough to stay afloat in water for short periods of time.
 - Prairie Dogs: No** - Due to their short legs and round bodies, prairie dogs are terrible swimmers that sink more than they swim.
 - Rabbits: Yes** - Many types of rabbits are good swimmers, although some breeds are not as good due to the thickness of their coat, type of ears, or strength of their legs. Wild rabbits that live near water often swim as a way to get away from predators. A rabbit that does not want to swim, however, can suffer stress that could be severe enough to kill it, and there is always a risk of a cold or upper respiratory infection if they are not dried off properly. See the "Links for Further Reading" section on our web site for a video of a rabbit swimming!
 - Sloths: Yes** - The sloth's habitat often floods during the rainy season, making it essential for them to be able to swim to find a new home. In fact, they can actually swim three times as fast as they can walk! See the "Links for Further Reading" section on our web site for a YouTube video about sloths swimming!
 - Tortoises: No** - Unlike turtles, which have flippers for feet, tortoises are land animals and cannot swim at all. They have bent legs similar to elephants' feet. If a tortoise accidentally falls into the water, the best it can do is float, if it is small enough, and hope to hit land eventually.



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



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Burlington Reports Issue 33: Fall/Winter 2023



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

Reminder: Holiday Foods & Items That Can Be Toxic To Pets

We've shared this information before, but it's definitely worth repeating: As we approach the holiday season once again, it is important 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 (and all year-round), such as:

- Alcohol
- Foods containing grapes, raisins and currants (such as fruitcake)
- 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 antifreeze, which can be fatal to pets even in very small amounts)
- Liquid Potpourri
- Poinsettias
- Mums (chrysanthemums)
- Compost / Mulch piles
- Pest deterrents - 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

* One food item that commonly contains Xylitol is peanut butter. While peanut butter can be a safe and nutritious treat for dogs, be careful to read labels and avoid giving your dog any peanut butter that contains Xylitol. Xylitol can cause dangerously low blood sugar and severe liver damage in dogs.

