

# Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ



Issue 3, August 2011

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

Paws and Claws Society (PACS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation legally registered with the State and Federal governments.

## What's New at PACS

Here is a peek into some of the happenings at PACS lately. You can always read more details on our web site at [pacsnj.org](http://pacsnj.org).

- Paws and Claws Society is now accepting Circle of Compassion for Animals grant applications to fund programs and services intended to implement a No Kill Community in their area. Visit our web site to download an application.
- The 2011 No-Kill Conference was a sold out success! See page 6 of this newsletter, as well as our web site and facebook page, for photos and highlights!
- We're now on facebook and Twitter! Follow the links on our web site to Like us on facebook and Follow us on Twitter.
- Principal of Ocean City High School, where student Danielle Breckenridge was a 3rd Prize winner in Cape May County of this year's Circle of Compassion for Animals Senior Scholarship Award, sent a very nice thank-you letter to Paws and Claws and Madelyn Filipski, who presented the awards. Read an excerpt of the letter on our site.
- Paws and Claws donates to Cape May County in celebration of the 7th anniversary of the Cape May County Animal Shelter and Adoption Center's opening.
- Please take a moment to answer our Quick Survey regarding contacting lawmakers about legislation having to do with animals.

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## Did You Know?



### Fascinating bits of animal facts and trivia found around the Internet:

In our first two issues, we listed facts about cats and dogs only, but now we've added some other fascinating animals to the list as well.

From <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz>:

- Although experts often disagree, there is scientific evidence which shows that the domestication of dogs could have occurred more than 15,000 years ago.
- A group of cats is called a clowder, a male cat is called a tom, a female cat is called a molly or queen, while young cats are called kittens.
- The Killer Whale (also known as Orca) is actually a type of dolphin.
- Although a giraffe's neck is 1.5 – 1.8 metres, it contains the same number of vertebrae as a human neck.
- Wolves have two layers of fur, an undercoat and a top coat, which allow them to survive in temperatures as low as minus 40 degrees Celsius! In warmer weather they flatten their fur to keep cool.
- While lions and leopards usually do their hunting at night, cheetahs hunt for food during the day. A cheetah has amazing eyesight during the day and can spot prey from 5 km away, but cheetahs cannot climb trees and have poor night vision.

Find full links on our web site - click on Burlington Reports.



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### How Do Heat Waves Affect Pets?

The summer of 2011 has brought record-breaking heat waves in many areas of the United States, and as of the early-August publication of this issue of *Burlington Reports*, it doesn't appear to be over yet. We often hear advice on how humans can stay safe when the temperatures soar, but what can we do for our pets?

First, be able to recognize symptoms of heat stroke or dehydration in your pet. According to an article at [mortongrove.patch.com](http://mortongrove.patch.com):

*The heat can cause changes in your pet's body and a few things to look for include:*

- *Your usually perky pet is unresponsive*
- *Difficulty breathing*
- *Whitening or paling of gums*
- *Thickened saliva*
- *Vomiting or diarrhea*
- *Disoriented behavior*

*If you notice any of these signs, your pet may need immediate veterinarian care.*

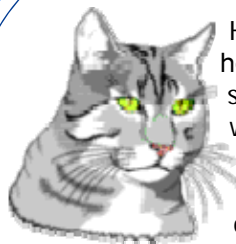
What can we do to make braving the heat an easier task for our dogs and cats? Water, of course, is essential, just as it is for us. Make sure your pets have plenty of clean water available to them at all times so that they can remain properly hydrated.

If your dog enjoys playing in water (not just drinking it), a kiddie pool is a great way to cool off when outside. (The hard plastic type works better than the inflatable type, as a dog's nails can puncture the soft plastic.) A garden hose can be fun for a dog as well. (They often love to try to bite the stream of water.) Be sure to let the water run for a little while first, to make sure it's cool and clean.

Try to time your dog's walks so that they don't occur during the hottest part of the

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### Burlington the Cat's Summer Road Trip



Hello, Burlington here. I hope your summer is going well.

Mallory and her older brother, Matthew, are out of

school for the summer and have been helping Mom at the book store every week day. Instead of going to the store a few days a week, as I was, I'm now going along every week day, and I'm enjoying it very much.

The store is closed on Sunday, and Mom is excited to have hired a young woman who works part-time during the week and also covers the 9-2 Saturday shift, allowing Mom to cut back to a five-day work week.

"Julie is very responsible," I heard Mom say at breakfast a few weeks ago, "so I feel comfortable trusting her with the store on Saturdays, and I can spend more time with you kids. Maybe we can start taking some overnight weekend road trips over the summer, as a family!"

"What about Burlington?" Mallory asked.

"He's part of the family," Dad interjected, a questioning look on his face as he looked at Mom.



Mom looked at me, sitting beside my food dish, using my paw as a human would use a wash cloth, to clean my face after eating my breakfast. I looked back

and slowly blinked my eyes at her.

"He does really well with traveling to and from the store in his carrier," she said, "I wonder if he would like to go with us. There are a lot of hotels that allow pets."

"Maybe we could train him to walk on a leash, like my friend Scotty's cat," Matthew suggested.

I wasn't sure what a leash was, or for that matter, a road trip, but the family's excitement was contagious. I walked over to the table and rubbed against Mom's leg.

"See? He's saying he wants to go," Mallory said.

That evening, Mom and the kids and I arrived home before Dad. When he came in, he was carrying a bright yellow bag that looked exactly like the ones my cat food comes in.

"I stopped at the pet store," Dad said, "and I got a leash and harness for Burlington. We should get him used to it in stages before we try to take him outside with it. That was what the lady at the pet store said."

What followed was an exercise in frustration for Mom and Dad, and in a slight loss of dignity for myself. It turned out alright, but getting started was awkward. Mom and Dad sat on the floor on either side of me. One held me

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### Burlington the Cat (from page 2)

and alternated between rubbing my ears and scratching under my chin, cooing about how it was going to be ok, while the other wrapped me in some contraption made of straps and buckles.

"No, his front paw goes in here," someone said.

"It's upside down," someone else said.

I lost track of who was saying what, as now Mallory and Matthew were chiming in as well.

"Reoowwww!" I said, annoyed with the whole process.

Finally, they let me go and I tentatively stood up. I found myself walking low to the ground as I analyzed the feel of the harness. With every step I took, the straps on my back would move slightly, the light touch causing my back to twitch. Each time that would happen, I would instinctively flop onto the floor in a very undignified manner, rolling and twisting and attempting to bite or claw my way out of the straps, but no matter what direction I turned, I couldn't catch hold of them. Mom adjusted the buckles so that the harness fit more snugly, running her fingers under the straps to make sure it wasn't too tight.

I wore the harness for half an hour the first day before Mom and Dad agreed that I'd had enough. They freed me of it and then showered me with praise and petting, followed by treats from Mallory and Matthew. I wore it a bit

longer the next day, and even longer the day after that, until it became familiar to me. I began to be able to ignore it as the kids distracted me by tossing some of my favorite toys near the edge of my field of vision. They knew I couldn't resist turning and pouncing when I sensed movement out of the corner of my eye. After several days, Mom commented that I was adjusting well.

Then Dad attached the leash.

I learned that a leash is a thin piece of very strong material that attaches to the harness and allows a human to hold onto me from a distance of about five or six feet. Of course, it took me a good while to learn that I could get up and walk while it was attached to the harness. For the first hour, I rolled onto my back and batted at it, biting and chasing after it, thinking it was a new string-toy. Once I grew bored playing with it and got onto my feet, however, Mallory began to walk all around the house with me.

It was fun for her until we walked past the refrigerator in the kitchen just as the icemaker dropped a batch of ice, sending me into a startled panic and under the telephone table in the corner. I ran out the other side, inadvertently wrapping the leash around the legs of the table and bringing it crashing to the floor,



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## Humor

### Cat Quiz

(From [rulingcatsanddogs.com](http://rulingcatsanddogs.com))

#### For Humans:

1. Your cat waits and meows at the front door when you arrive. Is it saying:
  - a. Welcome home
  - b. The phone rang twice while you were out
  - c. Feed me, NOW
2. Your cat meows at the door when you go out. Is it saying:
  - a. Please don't leave me here all alone
  - b. Good-bye
  - c. But what if I get hungry while you're out?
3. Your cat digs its claws into your leg. Is this:
  - a. An unsuppressed primal instinct
  - b. A sign of affection
  - c. A demand to be fed NOW
4. Your cat scratches at the door after being fed. Is it saying:
  - a. Lemme out - I need to use the garden
  - b. Wanna go out and play
  - c. Wonder what they've got to eat next door?

#### For Other Cats:

1. Your human walks into the kitchen. Does this mean:
  - a. It's hungry
  - b. It's lost
  - c. You're hungry
2. Your human puts down a bowl of food for you. Is this:
  - a. supper
  - b. something to keep you going till supper's ready
  - c. inedible junk to be scorned in favor of what the human's got.
3. Your human removes you from the top of the television. Does this mean:
  - a. You're in trouble - better not do it again
  - b. Nothing - humans do this from time to time
  - c. The human wants to play, so climb up again to amuse it.
4. Staircases are for:
  - a. Getting up to the human's bedroom at 4am
  - b. Lying in wait in the dark
  - c. Walking down just slower than the human in front of it
  - d. all of the above



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### The 2011 No-Kill Conference



The 2011 No-Kill Conference, held in Washington, DC July 30-31, 2011, was a sold-out success!

From Nathan Winograd's blog: "No Kill Conference 2011 brought hundreds of animal lovers from 40 states and nine countries to the George Washington School of Law in Washington D.C. The most successful shelter directors, animal lawyers, and shelter reformers nationwide shared insights and strategies to end the systematic killing of animals in our nations pounds and shelters. The attendees heard from directors of open admission shelters with save rates of better than 97%. They heard from lawyers who have passed laws making it illegal for shelters to kill animals in a wide variety of contexts and who have successfully saved the lives of animals who shelters were determined to kill. And they heard from reformers who have succeeded in passing laws to end the needless killing of animals in their

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### Burlington the Cat (from page 3)

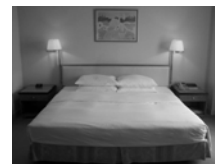
along with Matthew's bowl of marbles that he'd left on the table.

You can imagine what things looked like for a while after that.

I thought I'd surely never be allowed to accompany my family on one of their weekend trips, now. Not that I was terribly upset about that, mind you, as a part of me imagined a couple long, luxurious days of lounging in the sunlight that shined through the sliding glass door, without noises or interruptions, other than the neighbor coming in to feed me once a day. But another part of me did enjoy the idea of going with my family and seeing where they went, and especially basking in the attention I received for being an unusual cat who likes to go to work or on vacation with my humans.

Mom and Dad taught Mallory and Matthew how to hold the leash so that they could walk me with more control, giving me less slack in the leash when there were obstacles nearby that I might dash under or around, and more when we were in an open area. They practiced and I became more used to the leash, and soon we were ready. We ventured out into the yard and I was able to sniff at grass and trees and enjoy the fresh air and different surroundings with the safety of my people.

Last weekend, we finally went on a road trip. We traveled by car for a few hours. I slept, lulled by the movement of the car and the low hum and vibration from the engine and road noise. When I awoke, we had arrived at our hotel, where I was released from



my carrier and encouraged to explore. I immediately recognized my portable litter

box that was usually kept in the office at the book store, and my food and water dishes. Some of my favorite toys were lying beside my water dish, their scents familiar and comforting to me. I looked around the room, my nose accosted by the mingled scents of multiple humans and their pets who had been in this room previously. I walked around and sniffed, checking under and around furniture before jumping up to see what was on the dresser and night stands.

Finally I ventured onto one of the beds and settled into the soft pillow, where I fell asleep.



Mom and Dad and the kids went out once they knew I was safe and comfortable, and I napped off and on for most of the afternoon, waking only when a sound from the next room or the sidewalk outside our door would interfere with my dreams.

"Mew!" I heard, waking up for the fifth time. I sat up, my ears at attention, and listened.

"Mew!" There it was again.

"Rooww?" I called out.

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### Burlington the Cat (from page 4)

"Mew! Help me!" came the response.

"What's wrong?" I asked.

The young feline voice replied, "My paw is caught in my necklace."

"Necklace?" I asked, my head up against the wall so that I could hear better.

"Around my neck," she said, "My human calls it a necklace."

A sudden sound at the door diverted my attention and I looked up to see my family coming in, all of them talking and laughing.

"Call out again, so my people can hear you," I said through the wall to my new friend.

"Hey Mom, listen to the sounds Burlington is making," Mallory said, pointing to me.

"Mew!" said the cat in the next room.

"Mrow!" I said to my family, pacing back and forth at the head of the bed.

Mallory ran over and put her ear against the wall. Almost on cue, the cat said, "Mew!" once more.

"There's a cat in the next room," Mallory told her parents.

"Her paw is stuck in something called a 'necklace'," I told Mallory, and then remembered that to her, my words would have sounded simply like a string of throaty trilling sounds. She was able to

sense the urgency in my message, however, whether it was due to the look in my eyes or my body language, and she said to Mom, "I think something is wrong next door."

Dad opened our door and stepped out, then came back in and said, "They left the curtains open. It's a kitten. Its paw is caught in its collar."

Through the wall, I could hear the kitten talking again. She said, "I've . . . got . . . to get . . . this . . . aughhh."

"What happened?" I asked her.

"I goh muh tin thuck!"

"What?"

"Muh tin!"

"Try to lie down," I told her, "and be as calm and still as you can until we can get someone to help you."

I jumped down and ran to the door, pawing at it to let Mom and Dad know I wanted to go and look through the window next door. Mallory grabbed my leash from the table and clipped it to my harness, which I'd been wearing continuously since we'd left home, and we proceeded outside and to the window next to ours. Mallory picked me up so I could see, and there, half-sitting and half-lying on the bed, was a small calico kitten with both her paw and her chin now caught in a collar adorned

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### Heat Waves (continued from Page 2)

day. Morning and evening temperatures are somewhat lower than mid-day. Also be aware that cement and asphalt become very, very hot. A good rule of thumb is: If it would hurt your feet to walk barefoot, it will hurt your dog's feet as well. The skin on his pads is very similar to our skin, and is equally subject to blistering and injury. When the outdoor temperatures are high, try to avoid concrete and asphalt as much as possible, keeping walks short and in the cooler portion of the day and walking in shade or on grass as much as is feasible.

Even though cats tend to like heat, as is evidenced by the blissful expressions on their faces when they nap in the sun's rays next to a window or sliding glass door, they can overheat as well. A cat who lives strictly indoors becomes acclimated to air conditioning, so if you go out for the day or go away on vacation, it's fine to set the thermostat a bit higher than you would keep it when home, but don't allow the temperature to rise to extreme highs.

As we are often reminded by the tragic stories that make the news, and as Burlington illustrated for us in the June issue, it is never, ever a good idea to leave pets in a car, even if it doesn't feel excessively warm outside.



And who hasn't noticed how much dogs and cats love ice cream? (See our web site for the link to a great slide show on People Magazine's site.) There are companies that make ice cream specially for dogs and cats. Google to find out where to buy some locally.

In the mean time, enjoy chilling with your Furbabies while we wait for those heat waves to break.

See the Burlington Reports page of our web site for links to read full articles mentioned here.



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#### Need A Wacky Pet Name?

If you are tired of boring old pet names like Fluffy or Fido, VPI Pet Insurance has the web page for you! Follow the link on our site (navigate to the Burlington Reports page for links) to try out their Wacky Name-O-Matic. Then share the results on facebook or twitter.

Among 2011's Top 50 most popular wacky names for dogs you will find Franco Furter, Swarles Barkley, Woodrow Waddlesworth, Sir Broccolli, and Sergeant Boom Boom. On the cat side are creative names such as Mr. Meowgi, Cat Masterson, Mittens Ninja, Boneless, and Bobbie Lee Laptop. Clicking on any of the top ten on each list will take you to the bios of the pet with that name.

For instance, the bio for the cat named Spam explains:



When Virginia Basiago first met Spam, she wasn't quite sure what to think. "He was very tiny with an extremely long tail," said Virginia. "I mean, the tail was twice the size of the whole kitten and he had great, big

ears." Additionally, Spam's orange and white markings made him look as if he had an awkward milk moustache. That's when it dawned on her: not unlike the mysterious canned meat, her new kitten was "a mixture of strange and wonderful things."

Does your pet have a funny or unusual name? Email us at [email@pacsnj.org](mailto:email@pacsnj.org) and share the story of your pet's name!



with sparkly pink rhinestones.

"I'll go to the office and ask the manager to go in and take the collar off," Dad said, but before he finished the sentence, we heard a sound behind us.

We all turned in unison as a car pulled into the parking space directly in front of the window we were peering into. A young woman with red hair and sparkly jewelry got out of the car, a curious look on her face.

"Is that your kitten?" Matthew asked her.

"Yes, is she ok?" she asked, running past him to look through the window.

"She seems to be caught in her collar," Dad said, then grinned and pointed to me. "Our cat heard her crying and alerted us."

The young woman swiped her key card in the door and opened it, running in and picking up her kitten.

"Poor baby," she said to her as she unbuckled the collar and removed it.

"It's much safer to buy a breakaway collar," Dad told her, "or even a harness like our cat wears, if you plan to leash-train her." Then he added, "I got quite an education recently at the pet store when I was buying this harness and leash for Burlington."

"I just graduated from college," the young woman said, "and I'm on my way home. When I

#### Burlington the Cat (from page 5)

stopped for gas this morning, I saw a lady who was giving away kittens for free. I fell in love with this one and adopted her, and I went and bought her a pretty collar so she could have a sparkly necklace to wear. I had no idea she would get stuck in it."

"It's an easy mistake to make," Mom said, and then went on to explain that a breakaway collar has a special clasp that will open if the collar gets caught on something, making it much safer for cats.

The young woman thanked Mom and Dad, and then came over to me and gave me a kiss on the top of my head.

"Thank you, Burlington, for hearing my Callista and telling someone she needed help."

I purred in reply, closing my eyes and enjoying the attention.



"Mew," Callista said from inside the room, still sitting on the bed.

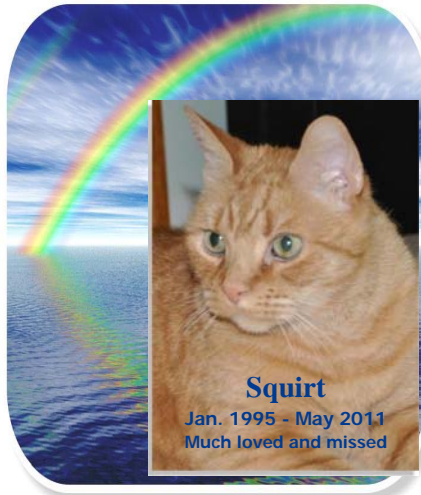
That night, as we were all falling off to sleep, I heard Mom whisper to Dad that she was really glad they brought me along on their trip.





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### Squirty's Words . . . From The Rainbow Bridge



*In our last issue, we introduced Squirty, a longtime friend of Paws and Claws Society who passed away on Mother's Day at the age of 16½.*

*In Squirty's memory, Burlington Reports is introducing a new section to remember pets who have passed. Ask Squirty a question, or share your pet memorial story by email to [email@pacsnj.org](mailto:email@pacsnj.org). Let Squirty meet your pet(s) at the Rainbow Bridge and escort them to Pet Heaven.*

**Question:** Hi Squirty. How did you get your name?

**Squirty:** When I was a baby, my head was tiny compared to my body because I was malnourished when my family brought me home. My Human Mommy said, "You have a squirty little head," and the name stuck.

**Question:** How were you adopted?

**Squirty:** Well, the beginning of my life was tough, but it got better. My brother and I were orphaned very early as kittens when our Cat Mommy was hit by a car. A nice lady found us and took us home. Sadly, my brother didn't survive. The lady had a lot of cats and dogs already, so I stayed in the garage until she could help find a better home for me. She took me to Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, in hopes of finding adoptive parents. The day I was dropped off, Fate has it that my Human Mommy and Daddy were part of a duck-release program at the Refuge. They opened my box and there I was, flea-ridden and scared. They fell in love with me and took me home, where I lived with my new brother and sister. I was scared for some time, but I overcame my fears with all the love I received.

**Question:** How did you get to know the Paws and Claws Society?

**Squirty:** I was a Foster Brother to many other cats in my lifetime. I never minded sharing our home at times so that other kitties could experience the same kind of love I knew, first with my family and then continuing when they were adopted by their new families. (That's not to say that I didn't have to put up with a lot, though, sometimes!)



### The 2011 No-Kill Conference

(continued from Page 4)

community."

"One person. One leader. One moment. One choice. That person can be you." - Nathan Winograd

From the *Toledo Blade*:

For Nathan Winograd, ending the large-scale killing of dogs and cats in our nation's animal shelters is not a matter of "if" but "when."

An author and executive director of the national No Kill Advocacy Center, Mr. Winograd has heard all the reasons offered by municipal dog pounds and private shelters about why that's impossible: lack of space, not enough money, too many animals that nobody wants. But he doesn't buy any of them.

Not because Mr. Winograd is a dreamer or an "extreme" animal-rights activist. It's because he's proved that saving 90 percent or more of shelter animals can be done.

As former leader of the Tompkins County SPCA in upstate New York in 2001, Mr. Winograd turned a typical struggling shelter into the first "no kill" haven in the United States, drastically reducing kill rates to 7 percent. Today, dozens of shelters across the country have replicated his success, implementing the same kinds of policies and procedures as Tompkins County.

"This is a battle that we are winning, and we will win," Mr. Winograd told a crowd of 400 animal advocates and shelter and rescue workers this weekend during the third annual No Kill Conference in Washington. "No more excuses, no more compromises, no more killing."

The conference included talks by directors of the nation's top-performing animal shelters, animal behaviorists, and prominent animal rights lawyers. They shared their experiences and advice on how to save dramatically more stray and abandoned animals from death.

See the News page of our web site or our facebook page for photos, links to many more photos, and links to the facebook pages and blogs of several other attendees and supporters of the No Kill Philosophy.



## Paws and Claws Society, Inc.

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Visit us online at [www.pacsnj.org](http://www.pacsnj.org)

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## Traveling With Your Pet



Burlington went for a road trip with his family in this issue, but he's not the only pet traveling with his people this summer! At [petsonthego.com](http://petsonthego.com), you can find all sorts of recommendations and advice for . . . well, "Pets On The Go", and their human companions. Conduct a pet friendly property search, check out featured hotels and destinations, or read tips on traveling with your pet.

*"Combine 58 million pets in the United States with a very mobile society and you'll find that more and more people and pets are traveling together along the nation's highways and byways. Traveling pets may be the rage, yet it isn't always as easy as simply jumping in the car or on plane and heading off. Planning is the essential ingredient to any successful trip, but especially one that involves a pet." — [petsonthego.com](http://petsonthego.com)*

In addition, you can shop in their boutique for pet travel products and gadgets. And, if taking your pet along with you on vacation is not an option, they even recommend a resource for locating a pet sitter in your area.