

Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ



Issue 4, October 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 read more details on our web site at pacsnj.org.

- **Grant applications now being accepted** by Paws and Claws to fund no-kill programs and services.
- Paws and Claws now has a pet humor page, called The Funny Pages! Visit our site and check it out!
- Why do people give up their pets? Read the Top Ten Reasons for Cat / Dog Relinquishment
- New Jersey Teen Raises Funds For Animals. The Paws and Claws Society donated \$5,000 to Beacon Animal Rescue at the "Dog Day Afternoon" fund raiser at Bonefish Grill in Egg Harbor Township in August.
- Download a free copy of *A No Kill Primer: Inside Nathan Winograd's Redemption*, the "cliff notes"-like version of Nathan Winograd's groundbreaking book.

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Did You Know?



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

From globalanimal.org:

- A flamingo can only eat when it's head is upside down.
- Dolphins sleep with one half of the brain at a time, and with one eye closed.
- A snail can sleep for 3 years at a stretch.
- Most elephants weigh less than the tongue of a blue whale.
- A rat can last longer without water than a camel.

From petfactory.com:

- The Turkish Van, a very old rare breed that originated in Turkey, is quite different from other breeds because of its unusual love of water. Known as "the swimming cat," the Van is strong, quick and agile. He makes a devoted and loyal companion--on land or at sea.
- The expression "three dog night" originated with the Eskimos and means a very cold night - so cold that you have to bed down with three dogs to keep warm.
- According to one legend, the "M" marking on the forehead of the Tabby Cat was created by the prophet Mohammed as he rested his hand lightly on the brow of his favorite cat, a Tabby.
- The term "dog days" has nothing to do with dogs. It dates back to Roman times, when it was believed that Sirius, the Dog Star, added its heat to that of the sun from July 3 to August 11, creating exceptionally high temperatures. The Romans called the period dies caniculares, or "days of the dog."

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



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Nothing Is Like A Mother's Love



Wildlife photographer Jean-Francois Largot recently captured photographic evidence of the protective love that inspired the phrase "like a Mama lion".

When a lion cub at Kenya's Masai Mara game reserve slid into a steep ravine in August, Largot snapped photos as the mother lioness looked on.

Other members of the pride attempted to climb down the cliff to rescue the cub, but realize it is too steep. In the third photo, we see the mother taking the risk and carefully descending into the ravine. She reached her cub and picked him up with her teeth, then carefully climbed the steep embankment to return her baby to safety.

In the final photo, taken after the harrowing event was over, we see her licking the cub on the top of his head, and it's easy to imagine that she may be saying, "Now you understand why I told you to stay beside me."

The photo slide show can be viewed at animaltracks.today.com or huffingtonpost.com. Full links are on our web site. Click on Burlington Reports.

Burlington the Cat's Scary Halloween



Hello. Burlington here. I didn't understand why they were teasing him about his socks. I

Are you enjoying the transition to the Fall weather here in the Northeast U.S. ? If you're like my family, that crisp, cool air probably infuses you with anticipation for the upcoming Fall and Winter holidays. Halloween is right around the corner, and before we know it, it will be Thanksgiving, then Christmas/Hanukkah, and then New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

These are all very exciting times for humans, but can be confusing and scary - even dangerous - for pets.

I remember that first Halloween with my family. I was still a young cat at the time. Mallory and Matthew dressed up as a brother and sister singing duo that was popular back when Mom and Dad were babies. I



think their names were Donny and . . . um . . . Marie, I think. That part isn't important., though

Matthew was wearing purple socks with a white suit and Mallory was

teasing him about his socks. I didn't understand why they were doing that, or whether his socks had something to do with the reason they kept talking about being "a little bit country and a little bit rock and roll", but apparently it was all part of the game of dressing in a costume. They were having fun and I always enjoy being a part of things when my humans are enjoying themselves.

Well, Dad went out with Mallory and Matthew and while they were gone, Mom sat with me and we watched TV. Specifically, she watched TV and I tried to nap on her lap. I wasn't able to get much sleep, however, because the doorbell kept ringing.

Each time it would ring, I would follow Mom while she left her chair in the living room and picked up a big bowl of candy from the foyer table before opening the door.

Let me tell you, the hideous things I saw that night have never left my memory! Scary monsters, grotesque deformities, and even . . . yes . . . dogs. Big dogs. Some of them were real, dressed in their own costumes,





Burlington the Cat (from page 2)

accompanying their humans, and others were really humans dressed up as dogs. A couple of them were cute, like Scooby Doo, but there were others that the humans called werewolves that I cannot even begin to describe. The fangs on those dogs still make me shudder when I think of them.

Later that night, Mallory and I laid on her bed and she scratched behind my ears and explained what I'd witnessed. It was called Halloween.



"Kids dress in costume," she said, "Sometimes adults dress up, too. And kids go door to door and say, 'Trick or

Treat', and the people who live there give out candy."

"Why?" I asked her, wordlessly, but she understood.

"Just because it's fun, I guess," she replied, "It's like playing pretend. It's fun to pretend to be someone or something else for a little while."

I'd meant "Why do humans give other humans treats for misbehaving," as I knew that my people would not reward *me* if I purposely frightened them. In fact, not so long before that night, I had thought it would be funny to hide

beside the sofa and jump out at Mom's legs when she walked by, but she was carrying a glass of red wine and she didn't think it was funny at all. She also didn't praise me, or give me any treats.

I crawled close to Mallory and curled up next to her leg, then closed my eyes and began to purr. She stroked my fur.

"Were you scared by all those trick-or-treaters?" she asked.

I laid my head on her knee in response. Truth be told, I'd been scared. Scared and confused.

"Oh, Burlington, I wish I'd have thought about that earlier. We would have put you in my bedroom with the door closed. I'll bet the sounds were scary for you, too, weren't they?"

I stretched and flexed my paws as if I were kneading bread, and she knew that translated to my feeling safe and cared for, and she said, "Then from now on, every Halloween, I'll set up a nice safe space in my room with food and water and a litter box, until after the scary part of the night is over."

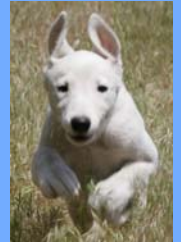
I gave her knee a kiss in thanks. She has kept her promise ever since.

Mallory and Matthew also protect me from the candy in their trick-

Continued on Page 4

Humor

In our last issue, the Humor section was all about cats, so this issue's Humor section is dedicated to dogs . . .



10 Reasons Why It's Great to be a Dog

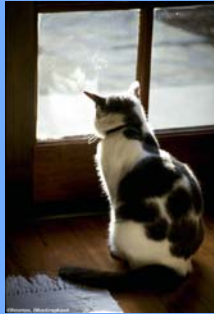
(from joke-archives.com)

1. If it itches, you can reach it. And no matter where it itches, no one will be offended if you scratch it in public.
2. No one notices if you have hair growing in weird places as you get older.
3. Personal hygiene is a blast: No one expects you to take a bath every day, and you don't even have to comb your own hair.
4. Having a wet nose is considered a sign of good health.
5. No one thinks less of you for passing gas. Some people might actually think you're cute.
6. Who needs a big home entertainment system? A bone or an old shoe can entertain you for hours.
7. You can spend hours just smelling stuff.
8. No one ever expects you to pay for lunch or dinner. You never have to worry about table manners, and if you gain weight, it's someone else's fault.
9. It doesn't take much to make you happy. You're always excited to see the same old people. All they have to do is leave the room for five minutes and come back.
10. Every garbage can looks like a cold buffet to you.



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Preparing for Cold Weather



As Burlington mentioned in this issue's story, the chill of Autumn is in the air in the Northeast U.S.! How are you preparing for the winter weather?

We found a helpful article on *Oh My Apartment*, a blog on the apartmentratings.com web site, called "Top Ten Winter Pet Safety Tips". Their tips include:

- Keeping pets away from anti-freeze - When we add anti-freeze to our vehicles to protect the engines from the cold temperatures, those of us with cats and dogs need to be extra mindful to keep our pets away from any anti-freeze, even a small amount that may be spilled onto the driveway or the garage floor. The sweet smell of anti-freeze is attractive to cats and dogs, but ingesting even a small amount can be deadly.
- Allowing pets to acclimate slowly to the cold weather - Dogs and cats that spend most or all of their time indoors, while developing a winter coat, may not yet have a thick *enough* coat to tolerate the change in temperatures. Be sure to limit pets' outdoor time early in the season, to allow time for their tolerance to develop.
- Being careful to properly care for dogs' paws after walking on streets and sidewalks. Because salt and sand are often applied to city streets and sidewalks during snowy weather, this can be irritating to the pads of your dog's feet. After a walk, a quick cleaning with warm water will relieve irritation and will also protect your dog from ingesting chemicals when he licks his feet.
- Investing in a coat and/or boots for your dog, if the cold is severe enough to cause discomfort. Short-haired dogs and small dogs are particularly susceptible to hypothermia, and a coat or protective covering should be worn during extended periods of

or-treat bags, as well as other candy and treats they receive at other times during the year.



Most people already know that chocolate is deadly for dogs, but it might surprise you to learn that it is equally dangerous for cats. And chocolate is not the only treat your pet should be protected from. Too much sugar in general is not good for us. Our bodies aren't used to consuming sugar, or the wrappers that candy is often covered in. We don't know any other way to remove those wrappers other than with our teeth, and sometimes we swallow them, leading to potential blockages and all sorts of unmentionable discomfort.

Before putting her candy out of my reach that night, though, Mallory

Burlington the Cat (from page 3)

reached into the bag and pulled something out.

"Mrs. Lewis from across the street gave me a Halloween present for you." She reached toward me with something round and orange in her hand. "She got one for her cat and he loves it."

When she placed the object on the bed in front of me, I slowly leaned toward it and sniffed. It smelled heavenly. It was a cat toy that looked like a pumpkin, and it was filled with catnip. Immediately, I rubbed my cheeks all over it, intoxicated by its aroma, and it is still among my favorite toys.

How wonderful! I got a treat and didn't even trick anybody!



SHELTER STORIES: PERSONALS

Me: Warmhearted, spirited, fun, affectionate, waiting.
You: Kind, genuine, tender, compassionate, come and get me.



Mutts, copyright 2004 Patrick McDonnell



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Sweepstakes For Your Pets!

While they may not include Ed McMahon knocking on your door, there are a lot of sweepstakes out there that have to do with pet products.



Hills Science Diet is hosting a Sweepstakes for their Healthy Mobility line of dog food, to award 30 winners free pet food for a year. Visit their web site for details and to enter.*



Fresh Step Cat Litter is offering to make someone's cat a star in their commercials. Their summary of the rules state:

Your cat is so ready for the spotlight. So how do we get her there? Take a look at these pointers to help make your video the best it can be.

- Video size must be under 2GB
- Keep the focus on cats, not humans
- Try to keep it under 2 minutes
- We like cats being cats, not staged
- Try to shoot in good light
- Avoid package labels
- Please no music due to licensing rules
- Title your video and write a small description

For more information or to enter, visit the Fresh Step web site or their YouTube channel.*



Dog owners in Germany have a unique opportunity to help Nestle Purina test a new commercial for Beneful dog food that is targeted, not at the dog owners but at the dogs themselves.

The story on myfoxny.com explains that "the advertisement includes three sounds that can be picked up by dogs, including a squeak that is similar to the sound made by dogs' toys as well as a high-pitched 'ping'. Another is a high frequency tone that can be captured by dogs, but which humans can barely hear."

The story as reported on petproductnews.com goes on to say that "As part of the campaign in Germany, Nestlé Purina is running an online sweepstakes through October. To enter, dog owners have to select which sound their pet responded to the most. The winner will receive a year's supply of Beneful dog food."

The commercial can be viewed on myfoxny.com, as well as a video of the reaction of a dog watching the commercial.*



* Full links can be found on our web site, pacsnj.org. Click on Burlington Reports.

Preparing for Cold Weather

(from page 4)

time outdoors.

- Keeping cats indoors if at all possible, and keeping dogs on leashes. Cats are not only at risk for frostbite on their paws and ears, but they also tend to seek warmth under the hoods of cars, which can lead to tragic injury and death. Dogs can easily lose their scent in the snow and become lost, so it's best to always have them on a leash, and be extra careful to make sure they have their ID tags in case you should become separated.



- Using extra care around holiday foods, decorations, and alcohol. (*See our lists of dangerous foods for cats and dogs on pages 6 and 7.*) *Tinsel on Christmas trees is dangerous to pets; if they swallow it, it can cause serious intestinal blockages. Also see the article in our June 2011 issue about plants and flowers that are dangerous to pets. On the list that we mentioned in that article are Mistletoe and Poinsettia. (The good news about holiday foods, that we learned on*

www.pets.ca, is that pumpkin is actually good for cats and dogs and can be used as a remedy for constipation or diarrhea.)



- Never leaving pets alone in a car - Just as the spring and summer heat can quickly rise to deadly levels in cars, the cold weather poses serious risks as well, as sufficient heat cannot be maintained inside a closed car without the heater running.
- Making sure your pet has a warm place to sleep and eat, away from drafts and cold floors.

You can find this and other pet-related articles at ohmyapt.apartmentratings.com.



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“People Food” That Is Dangerous to Cats

While many of us are aware, as Burlington pointed out in his story in this issue, that chocolate is very dangerous for dogs, we are learning that it is dangerous for cats as well.

But, that isn't all.

There are lesser-known dangers in feeding cats table scraps. Below is a list of “people foods” published on about.com that are dangerous to our feline friends:

Onions, Garlic, & Related Root Vegetables - Onions and garlic contain a substance, in varying amounts, which can cause a form of anemia in cats.

Green Tomatoes, Green (raw Potatoes) - These foods are members of a family of plants that contain a poisonous alkaloid that can cause violent lower gastrointestinal symptoms. The leaves and stems are particularly toxic. (Ripe tomatoes in small amounts do not carry the same danger and their presence in pet foods should cause no concern.)

Grapes and Raisins - The about.com article we found says, “These foods’ toxicity has mainly been found in dogs, in quantities of varying amounts. The ASPCA advises: ‘As there are still many unknowns with the toxic potential of grapes and raisins, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center advises not giving grapes or raisins to pets in any amount.’ That’s good enough for me.”

Milk - Milk is not toxic to cats, but many cats are lactose-intolerant. This means that the lactose in milk and milk products produces stomach upset, cramps, and gassiness. A small amount of cream might be ok two or three times a week (the more fat in the milk, the less lactose) if you cat really begs for milk, or as an alternative, you might try CatSip, a product made from skim milk with an enzyme added that helps the digestion of lactose. Cat-sip is available in supermarkets such as Safeway, Albertson’s and A&P, as well as pet products chains, such as PetSmart and Petco.

Tabby’s Place Catoberfest Auction



October 1st was Catoberfest Live, the main event in the Tabby’s Place Catoberfest fund raiser.

Tabby’s Place, as defined on the About page of their web site, “is a cage-free sanctuary that provides refuge to cats in hopeless situations.”

The October 1st event included a silent auction, where folks placed bids on over 100 items including getaway trips, fine art and antiques, electronics, jewelry, gourmet food, and more. There was also live music by Sarah Donner and Dave Cahill, a live broadcast by WCTC 1450, pet related merchandise for sale, a reading and book signing by New York Times best-selling *Homer’s Odyssey* author Gwen Cooper, a pet psychic, low-cost microchipping, pet behavior classes, a Blessing of the animals, food and beverages, and tours of the facility.

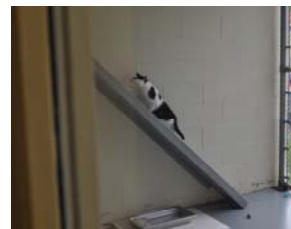
By visiting the Tabby’s Place web site at tabbysplace.org, visitors can view a virtual tour of the facility which includes photos and video. Volunteers and staff members conduct portions of the video tour, each explaining a specific area of the facility and what they do.

The thought and care that went into the design of the building is both apparent and impressive. The cage-free plan provides communal living environments for the cats. Each cat is placed in

a “suite” that is appropriate for their own unique needs, whether or not the particular cat is able to live with others, is on a special diet, or has health or behavioral issues. The in-house medical facility provides for testing, treatment, and surgery, and special attention is paid to maintaining a clean and disease-free environment.

The cats have plenty of space for exercise and play, with a variety of angles and textures to stimulate their interest. Cozy cubbyholes are perfect places for catnaps.

Outdoor enclosures with ramps and ceiling-level “sky walks” allow the cats to venture out for some fresh air and sunshine, or to watch the birds in the nearby bird houses outside the enclosures.

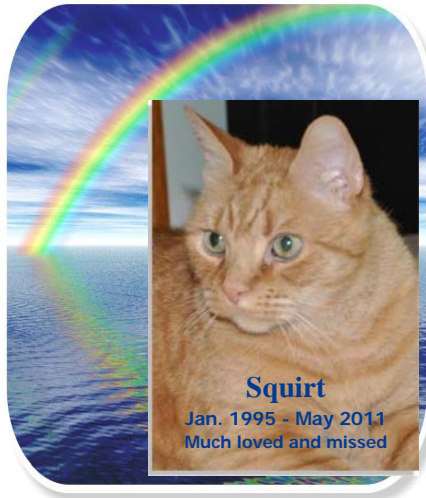


The Catoberfest event was not only a fun and imaginative fundraiser, but was also a great opportunity to make people aware of the work that Tabby’s Place does and how well they do it.



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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 at the age of 16½, Burlington Reports added a new section to remember pets who have passed. Ask Squirty a question, or share your pet memorial story on our web site (click on Burlington Reports). Let Squirty meet your pet(s) at the Rainbow Bridge and escort them to Pet Heaven.

Question: Squirty, What is the best way to acclimate a new kitty member to the household?

Squirty: The key to introducing a new cat into a household where a pet or pets already live is S.L.O.W. Cats need time to get to know new

feline family members and to establish their ground rules with each other.

S = Segregation - Prepare a safe and comfortable place for the new cat or kitten, in a separate room like a bathroom or a bedroom. Make sure the new kitty has a clean litter box as well as fresh food and water and toys. If at all possible, include something that Kitty owned prior to coming to the new household, so that the scent of it is familiar. The new kitty and any other pets that already live in the house will hear one another through the door, and they may sniff under the door to become familiar with each other. They may also growl or hiss. Be patient with them; they are expressing their discomfort at the unexpected change in their environment, and also communicating with one another as they decide who will be the animal "boss".

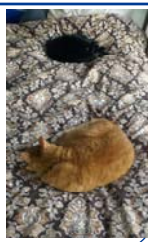
L = Love - Give all of your pets extra love and reassurance as they adjust to the idea of living together. They need to know that they are not being punished and that adding to the pet family is a good thing.

O = Outings - Take turns allowing the new kitty to roam the house while the other pets are safely kept in other rooms, so that the new kitty will begin to feel at home in the house, and also so that the other pets will become used to the newcomer's scent in all the rooms of the house. Eventually, you will introduce the new kitty to your other pets, but keep their visits short at first, allowing them to spend a little more time together with each outing, until finally they will establish their rules for living together and you will be able to allow them free roaming in the house.

W = Waiting - Your pets will make this adjustment at their own pace, so your patience is important. Your reward will be happy, contented pets who will enjoy each other's company.

"When I was getting to know my sister, Emily, we established a ground rule that worked for us: 'Keep at least 18 inches between us at all times'."

-- Squirty



"People Food" That is Dangerous to Dogs

There seem to be even more "people foods" that are harmful to dogs than there are to cats, probably because dogs are more likely to eat certain things like seeds or nuts. Below is a partial list from an article on about.com, along with some quotes from the article:

Onions

It is not clear what quantity of onions is poisonous, but the effects can be cumulative. Poisoning can result from raw, cooked and dehydrated forms. Avoid feeding table scraps and any foods cooked with onions (including some baby foods). Check your ingredients!

Garlic

Chives

Chocolate

Caffeinated Items

Caffeine is quite similar to the toxic chemical in chocolate. It can damage the heart, lungs, kidney and central nervous system.

Macadamia Nuts

Xylitol (a sugar-free sweetener in some candy and chewing gum)

Alcohol and Yeast Dough

Alcoholic beverages contain ethanol - a seriously toxic chemical compound that causes central nervous system and respiratory depression.

Uncooked yeast doughs also produce ethanol.

Even small amounts of ethanol can cause toxic effects.

Fruit Pits and Seeds

Apple seeds, cherry pits, peach pits, and plum pits contain the toxin cyanide.

...the leaves, fruit, seeds and bark of avocados contain Persin, which can cause vomiting and diarrhea in dogs.

See the link to read the full article on our web site. Click on Burlington Reports.



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Visit us online at www.pacsnj.org

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The Top Ten Reasons Given for Leaving Pets at Shelters in the United States

(from the Department of Health and Human Services web site)

Dogs

1. Moving
2. Landlord issues
3. Cost of pet maintenance
4. No time for pet
5. Inadequate facilities
6. Too many pets in home
7. Pet illness (es)
8. Personal problems
9. Biting
10. No homes for littermates

Cats

1. Too many in house
2. Allergies
3. Moving
4. Cost of pet maintenance
5. Landlord issues
6. No homes for littermates
7. House soiling
8. Personal problems
9. Inadequate facilities
10. Doesn't get along with other pets

Data collected and reprinted with permission by the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy. 10/8/04.
www.petpopulation.org.

Remember, adding a companion animal to the household means making a lifelong commitment, so choose the pet that suits your lifestyle. Thinking before adopting will save the animal from being returned to the shelter. Educating yourself and your family about the pet before adopting will help to assure a long and satisfying life together.