

Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ








Issue 9, August 2012

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

For Fur-ther Information . . .

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- Find out "What's New" by following links on our home page or clicking on "News"
- Read other issues of our newsletter by clicking on "Burlington Reports", 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 "Burlington Reports" on our navigation menu to find "Links for Further Reading" for more information on topics mentioned in *Burlington Reports*, or click on "Share with Squirt" to share a question or story in our Squirty's Words column
- Click on "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, or download forms
- 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
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Did You Know?

Fascinating bits of dog and cat facts and trivia found around the Internet

Cat Trivia:

From *pawpathlittermat.com*:



Cats have AB blood groups just like people.

Your cat can run as fast as 30 mph over a short distance.

Newborn kittens have closed ear canals that don't begin to open for nine days. When the eyes open, they are always blue at first. They change color over a period of months to the final eye color.

From *goodinfo2know.blogspot.com*:

Both humans and cats have identical regions in the brain responsible for emotion.

A cat's brain is more similar to a man's brain than that of a dog.

Cats walk on their toes.

The domestic cat is the only species able to hold its tail vertically while walking. You can also learn about your cat's present state of mind by observing the posture of his tail.

If a cat is frightened, the hair stands up fairly evenly all over the body; when the cat threatens or is ready to attack, the hair stands up only in a narrow band along the spine and tail.

From *cattalksite.com*:

Cats walk with both left feet moving then both right feet moving, as do the camel and giraffe

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Did You Know?

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families of animals. No other animals walk like this! Apparently there was an evolutionary advantage for these three animal types living in environments where careful and quiet walking was important for survival.

Dog Trivia:

From wonderlilly.scriptmania.com :



Can you answer these trivia questions about dogs?

1. Which dog does not bark?
2. Which dog can jump five times his height?
3. Which dog is most like a cat?
4. Which dog snores the loudest out of all dogs?
5. Which dog is the only dog that can come in three sizes?
6. Which dog has 4 different emotions?
7. Which dog can't swim because their legs are too short?
8. Which dog blushes when he/she is happy?
9. What happens to Shar Pei wrinkles after time?

Answers are on Page 7.



See "For Fur-Ther Information" on page one to learn about links for additional reading on topics mentioned in Burlington Reports!



Pets complete our hearts

Burlington Explains the Innies and Outies



Hello. Burlington here.

You know, the concept of "fitting in" isn't something that only humans are concerned with. Of course, it's a bit different for cats than for people, but just as you do, we have groups, and hierarchies within those groups, and each of us has a place where we fit or belong. If we live with other cats, we know where we fit in within our colony (or clowder, pride, etc.), and if we live with humans, we know how we fit into the family dynamic.

A couple weeks ago, Mallory came in from riding her bike, looking very upset.

"Mrs. Reed's cat got out," she said, "I tried to catch her but she ran too fast and I couldn't get her."

I'd seen that cat in Mrs. Reed's window before, when I was sunning myself on our screened patio. She's a large, long-haired cat whose breed is called "Ragdoll", partly due to their characteristic of "going limp" when picked up. I'd heard that little tidbit of information one afternoon when Mrs. Reed and Mom were talking on the patio. Powder Puff had been lying in Mrs. Reed's window, looking out, and Mom had asked if she was a Persian. (The Ragdoll was originally bred from Persian and Birman cats, Mrs. Reed had told Mom, though I don't think things like "breed" really matter to either one of them when it comes to their love of cats.)

I immediately jumped to the living room windowsill and looked out, hoping to catch a glimpse of Puff.

Mallory walked up behind me and peered out over my shoulder.

"I wish I knew where she went," she said.

I knew who might be able to help.



Most evenings, I spend some time on our screened patio, and several of the neighborhood "Outies" come by to visit through the screen. "Outies", a nickname they have for themselves, are outdoor cats. They may be strays, or outdoor cats who belong to someone, or even cats whose owners keep them inside part of the time and let them go out part of the time.

"Powder Puff got out and she's missing," I told the Outies that evening.

"Who's Powder Puff?" asked Scrubs, a young Tom who had recently joined the group.

Honcho gestured with his head toward Mrs. Reed's house and said, "She's the Innie who lives

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Burlington the Cat

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over there. She looks pretty pampered. She'll never be able to defend herself out here."

I nodded. Outside can be a pretty harsh place for a cat. Even a seasoned Outie who is used to it. The Outies who come to the Screen Meetings are very proud cats and will rarely admit how hard it is for them, but it's true.

Honcho got up and walked across the yard to get a better look at Mrs. Reed's house. A breeze floated across his whiskers and he sniffed.

"I don't pick up her scent over here," he said, and sat down beside a metal object that was sticking up from the ground.

"Be careful," I said, "That's what the humans call a sprinkler head."

Honcho snickered. "Listen to the Innies," he said, gesturing toward me with a tilt of his head, "He's gonna' tell me what to be careful of outside." He swished his tail.

I shrugged. I knew what those metal things did every few days, right around this time of day.



Before I had time to respond to Honcho, the metal thing rose up a few inches and . . . pfffsst! . . . a spray of water sent

Honcho running like a bolt of lightning.

Once everyone stopped laughing and Honcho attempted to dry himself with his tongue, trying to salvage any shred of dignity he still had, I said, "I was an Outie for a large part of my life before I came here, but I learned about sprinkler heads after I became an Innies."



"She's big, though," Wander said, bringing the topic of conversation back to Puff, "And strong. I got too close to her window one day and I thought she was going to come right through the glass after me."

Honcho said, "She may be big and strong, but she's no match for . . . well, you know."

We all nodded, except for Scrubs, who asked, "Dogs?"

"Well, dogs can be dangerous to us sometimes, but that wasn't what I was referring to," said Honcho.

"Snakes? Cars? Mean people?" Scrubs continued.

"Worse."

Mitzi piped up. "He means the Savvies."

The collective gasp was so loud that I wondered if the humans heard it from inside the house.

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Humor

This issue's humor comes from joke-archives.com.

A Cat Workout Program



Cat fitness really can be fun. However, it is important to start any fitness program only when you feel like it. Don't let a few extra pounds intimidate you into becoming more active. The most important aspect of fitness is: when to start the program. The

best time is at about 2 a.m. The house is quiet; there are no distractions. The warm-up is critical. Cats are experts at stretching, so this won't be a problem. Start with a few wind sprints, full speed, toenails clicking on the tile or linoleum floors. A few low but loud growls will help you feel charged up.

Now it is time to add some eye-paw coordination work. Find a marble (the big steelies work even better) and roll that down the floor as the sprints continue. See how many times you can ricochet it off the wallboards before it disappears under the fridge. Finally, work on that upper body strength. Climbing is a great exercise. Use draperies, macramé plant hangers, or clothing on hangers. You can even find some carpeting on some basement walls. Backs of chairs work well, too.

Now put it all together. A speed sprint to the end of the hall! A race around the living room! Leap to the back of the rocking chair! Let the rebound launch you to the top of the swinging planter! Rock that baby! Feel those muscles work. Just as the hook pulls loose from the ceiling, dash to the bedroom and dive under the covers. Establish your alibi just in time to hear the crash of the plant to the floor below.

Have a good Work-Out!

Doggie Dictionary



Bicycles: Two-wheeled exercise machines invented for dogs to control body fat. To get maximum aerobic benefit, you must hide behind a bush and dash out, bark loudly and run alongside for a few yards; the person then swerves and falls into the bushes, and you prance away.

Bump: The best way to get your human's attention when they are drinking a fresh cup of coffee or

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Humor

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tea.

Deafness: This is a malady that affects dogs when their person wants them in and they want to stay out. Symptoms include staring blankly at the person, then running in the opposite direction, or lying down.

Dog Bed: Any soft, clean surface, such as the white bedspread in the guest room or the newly upholstered couch in the living room.

Drool: Is what you do when your persons have food and you don't. To do this properly you must sit as close as you can and look sad and let the drool fall to the floor, or better yet, on their laps.

Garbage Can: A container which your neighbors put out once a week to test your ingenuity. You must stand on your hind legs and try to push the lid off with your nose. If you do it right you are rewarded with margarine wrappers to shred, beef bones to consume and moldy crusts of bread.

Lean: Every good dog's response to the command "sit!", especially if your person is dressed for an evening out. Incredibly effective before black-tie events.

Leash: A strap which attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your person where you want him/her to go.

Love: Is a feeling of intense affection given freely and without restriction. The best way you can show your love is to wag your tail. If you're lucky a human will love you in return.

Sofas: Are to dogs like napkins are to people. After eating it is polite to run up and down the front of the sofa and wipe your whiskers clean.

Thunder: This is a signal that the world is coming to an end. Humans remain amazingly calm during thunderstorms, so it is necessary to warn them of the danger by trembling uncontrollably, panting, rolling your eyes wildly, and following at their heels.

Wastebasket: This is a dog toy filled with paper, envelopes, and old candy wrappers. When you get bored, turn over the basket and strew the papers all over the house until your person comes home.

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Scrubs sheepishly asked, "Savvies?"

"Savvies is short for savages," I explained, "That's what some of the cats call the ferals. They look like you or me, but they are wild. Most of them have never been touched by human hands, and the few who have are still never going to trust them."

"And you're afraid of the ferals?" Scrubs asked Honcho.

"They're a tough bunch," Wander said before Honcho could answer, "They can make ribbons out of you."

"But even they aren't immune to cars, snakes, harsh weather, lack of food, or mean people," I pointed out.

Honcho nodded.

I went on, "The point is, it's a dangerous place outside, and Puff isn't used to having to defend herself or hunt or forage for food. We need to find her as soon as possible so she can go back home."

No sooner had I uttered those words when Wander said, "Look!"



We all turned to look in the direction she indicated. There

Burlington the Cat

was Puff, looking at all of us, fear and trepidation written all over her face.

"It's ok," I called out to her, "My human girl will get you and take you home."

I ran and got Mallory. By the time we got back to the patio, the Screen Meeting had apparently disbanded abruptly. There was no sign of any of the cats other than Puff, who remained standing in the spot where I'd left her.

"Powder Puff!" Mallory said, opening the door and going outside.

Puff recognized her and went to her, only to be scooped up in her arms and whispered to softly. That's something Mallory is very good at. She carried Puff home to a very happy Mrs. Reed.

A few days later, the Screen Meeting cats told me they'd seen Puff through Mrs. Reed's window,



lying by the fireplace, and she looked very happy. We all agreed that it would be a beautiful thing if we could all have such loving homes.

Even Honcho agreed.





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Feline Stomatitis

A Kelton Research Pet Parent survey showed that 81% of Americans consider our pets to be part of our family. When our four-legged (or winged) family members are sick, we do everything within our power to help them to be well again, just as we do for our human loved ones. When our pets are battling a serious and/or difficult-to-diagnose illness, we experience the same worry and anxiety that we feel about our human family members when they are sick.

A friend of Paws and Claws, whose cat, Buddy, was recently diagnosed with Stomatitis, has been going through this series of emotions that so many pet owners can empathize with.

Stomatitis is an inflammation of the mucous lining in the mouth. It is still not well understood, but may be caused by a virus. Removal of the teeth alleviates the problem in 80% of cats if it is caught early enough. The remaining 20% for whom removal of the teeth does not bring resolution may require medication for the rest of their lives.

What causes Stomatitis? Dr. Fraser A. Hale writes, in his paper titled 'Stomatitis' (read the pdf on our web site), "The short answer here is that we do not know the cause(s) of this condition. If anyone claims to know the cause, ask to see some real evidence to back their claim. At time of writing, there is none."

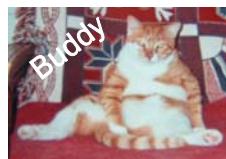
He then cites a UC Davis paper that "the condition is an atypical response of unknown etiology" and a draft position statement from the European Veterinary Dental College that states that the condition can "be thought of as an individual inappropriate immunologic response from the cat to a variety of antigenic triggers rather than in terms of specific causal agents". It goes on to say "in order to achieve good control of the syndrome, it is essential to identify these antigenic trigger factors so that it

can be appropriately managed."

A person whose cat is being treated for Stomatitis should discuss this information with their veterinarian, as well as talking about ways to remove any potential allergens or triggers from their home environment after their cat's condition is stabilized. (No sprays, no chemicals, no dust, etc. Air cleaners and air conditioning is imperative to filter the air. No open windows means no pollens. No smoke, cigarettes or fireplaces. Implement an allergic diet.)

Paws and Claws, as well as Buddy's mom, would like to thank Brick Town Veterinary Hospital in Brick, NJ; Dr. Debra Fiorito (Veterinary Dentistry); and Dr. Susan Ackermann in Hellertown, PA, for their caring help and sharing of knowledge on Buddy's case.

PACS would also like to thank Marine Equipment & Supply Company, once again, as their donation of \$620 in June of this year, collected during their softball charity event, has been allocated to helping with Buddy's veterinarian bills and care.



When asked if PACS could share Buddy's story in our newsletter, his mom relayed to us, "Buddy says it's ok to use his

story, but he's not up for any interviews with the press!"

We wish him a very speedy recovery!

Buddy's vet, Dr. Ackermann, shared a piece that was given to her by a client years ago, which aptly describes what our pets mean to us:

Just A Cat

From time to time people tell me, "lighten up, it's 'just a cat' or "that's a lot of money for 'just a cat'."

They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a cat". Some of my proudest moments have come

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Groups of Animals

Burlington mentioned a few names for groups of cats in this issue's story. Can you match the name of the group to the type of animal it refers to?

Troop of . . .	Ponies
Scurry of . . .	Lions
Kindle of . . .	Bees
Covey of . . .	Cheetahs
Route of . . .	Hummingbirds
Charm of . . .	Tigers
String of . . .	Cod
Mischief of . . .	Kittens
Leap of . . .	Lizards
Bevy of . . .	Squirrels
Lounge of . . .	Jackrabbits
Husk of . . .	Elephants
Ambush of . . .	Quail
Posse of . . .	Wolves (Moving)
Pod of . . .	Crows
Coalition of . . .	Mice
Memory of . . .	Leopards
Murder of . . .	Otters
Grist of . . .	Turkeys
Lap of . . .	Walruses

Answers are on Page 7.



See "For Fur-ther Information" on page one to learn about links for additional reading on topics mentioned in Burlington Reports!

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The Search Is On For The Next Benji



Brandon Camp, son of the creator of the "Benji" movies nearly 40 years ago, and Mark Forbes, veteran animal trainer, are looking for the star of a new Benji movie!

The original Benji, pictured above, was played by Higgins, a dog who was adopted from a California animal shelter in the early 1960's. He was 14-15 years old when he played the role of Benji, after having starred in television shows such as "Petticoat Junction" and "Green Acres", and his first movie, "Mooch Goes to Hollywood" in 1971.

Subsequent Benjis were Higgins' daughter, Benjean, another (distant) relative of Higgins, and another shelter dog.

Camp and Forbes are using social media and other online tools that weren't available during the searches for the first four Benjis. A Facebook page called "Benji the Movie" invites pet owners and shelters to upload photos of dogs they would like to see on the big screen!

Pointing to the fact that movies starring dogs tend to cause fans to rush to own a similar dog, Camp and Forbes express their hope that the new Benji movie will prompt lots of shelter adoptions!



Animal Moms Love Their Babies, Too

When teaching small children about being kind to animals, it is very helpful to use words that they understand. An example is to explain that "Animals have mommies too." Children can relate to the concept of relationships, based on their relationships with their own family. If a child can look at a dog, cat, bird, or other animal, and identify with it as a living thing with feelings, he or she learns empathy.

Animal parents *do* display characteristics, when caring for their babies, that we can all recognize as love!



Have you seen this image on Wild for Wildlife and Nature's page on Facebook? This Otter Mom seems to be proudly saying, "See my baby? Isn't he beautiful?"

Do you remember the story in our October 2011 issue of Burlington Reports,



about the mother lion who climbed down an embankment to save her cub?



A story appeared in the Huffington Post in July, about a mother elephant who

rescued her baby, who was trapped in mud at the Cabarceno Wildlife Park in Spain.

And there are always stories circulating of animal moms who care for the babies of other animals!



Feline Stomatitis

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about with "just a cat". Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a cat", but I did not once feel slighted. Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a cat" and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a cat" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it's "just a cat", then you will probably understand phrases like "just a friend", "just a sunrise" or "just a promise". "Just a cat" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy. "Just a cat" brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person. Because of "just a cat" I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future. So for me and folks like me, it's not "just a cat" but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment. "Just a cat" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.



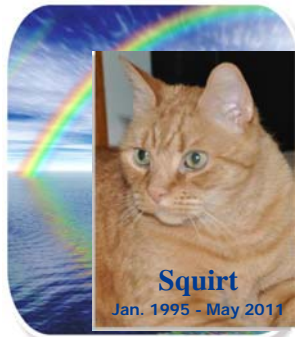
See "For Fur-ther Information" on page one to learn about links for additional reading on topics mentioned in Burlington Reports!

I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a cat" but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a man". So the next time you hear the phrase "just a cat", just smile, because they just don't understand.

-- Adapted from *Musings* ("Just A Dog")
by Richard Biby



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. 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: My mom sings this song all the time, and she says it was popular when she was younger. It's called "Cat Scratch Fever". Is that a

real illness?

Squirty: Actually, yes, it is. Also called Cat Scratch Disease (CSD), Teeny's Disease, Inoculation lymphoreticulosis, and Subacute regional lymphadenitis (among many other names), it is transmitted to humans by infected cats by way of a scratch, bite, or other contact with the cat's saliva on broken skin or the white of the eye. The bacteria that causes CSD is called *Bartonella henselae*. Approximately 40% of cats carry the bacteria in their saliva, but it doesn't make us sick. We are simply carriers.

The symptoms, when a human has Cat Scratch Disease, can include tender and swollen lymph nodes; mild fever; weight loss; red, raised bumps on the skin (particularly at the site of the scratch or bite); flu-like symptoms such as headaches, pain in the muscles and joints, fatigue, and nausea, and skin eruptions. Cat Scratch Disease is generally not serious and will resolve on its own, but sometimes antibiotics are helpful. If a person has a suppressed or poorly functioning immune system, it can be more serious.



What can you do to avoid getting CSD?

- Any time you are scratched or bitten, be sure to wash the area thoroughly, no matter how small or minor it seems.
- If you have an open sore, be careful not to let it come into contact with cats.
- People with poor immune system function should avoid playing with kittens or young cats, as they are more likely scratch and bite while playing, and also because kittens are more likely than adult cats to carry the bacteria.
- Control fleas in your cats' environment because they transmit the bacteria to cats, and there is a possibility that they may also transmit the bacteria directly to humans.

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

Quiz Answers

Answers to Dog Trivia on Page 2:

1. Basenji
2. Jack Russell Terrier
3. Vizsla
4. Boston Terrier
5. Poodle
6. Rottweiler
7. Basset hounds
8. Pharaoh hound
9. They fade away



Pharaoh Hound

Answers to Groups of Cats quiz on Page 5

Troop of Lions
Scurry of Squirrels
Kindle of Kittens
Covey of Quail
Route of Wolves (Moving)
Charm of Hummingbirds
String of Ponies
Mischievous of Mice
Leap of Leopards
Bevy of Otters
Lounge of Lizards
Husk of Jackrabbits
Ambush of Tigers
Posse of Turkeys
Pod of Walruses
Coalition of Cheetahs
Memory of Elephants
Murder of Crows
Grist of Bees
Lap of Cod



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Pawl and Clawdia are going to Washington!

Have you met our friends, Pawl and Clawdia? They are all packed and ready for their trip to Washington, DC for the 2012 No Kill Conference!

Clawdia: "I'm so excited. We'll meet so many animal lovers, united for an important cause!"

Pawl: "Yep. We'll raise the *roof*. Get it? *Roof?*"

Clawdia: "You aren't going to keep making lame jokes like that, are you?"



Follow us on Twitter and Facebook to see pictures of Pawl and Clawdia in Washington, DC, August 8-12, along with information on what's happening. (The No Kill Conference runs August 11 & 12.)

