

Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ




Issue 11, December 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
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- 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 Squirrel" 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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Happy Holidays

from Paws and Claws!





In This Issue:

Did You Know?	1
Burlington The Cat On The Differences Between Cats & Dogs	2
What Does Your Cat Do When You Aren't Looking?	3
Humor	4
A Dog-Gone Funny Evening	5
When Doggie Manners Matter	6
Squirty's Words . . . From The Rainbow Bridge	7
Donating to Good Causes for the Holidays?	8

Did You Know?

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

From downhomepets.com:

- Cats are lactose intolerant. Like most mammals, cats lose the ability to digest dairy after infancy. Feeding milk to a cat can encourage stomach upset and diarrhea. 
- Dogs with "squashed" faces have more health problems. The structure of the faces of pugs, boxers, and bulldogs makes them more prone to respiratory problems, dental problems, and other health issues.
- Hunting is not an instinctive cat behavior. If a kitten doesn't learn to hunt from its mother or other cats, it's unlikely that it ever will.
- All Dalmatians are born white. Their spots develop within the first few weeks of life. 
- Cats are capable of about one hundred distinct vocalizations; dogs are capable of about ten.
- Dogs are one of only two mammal species that have prostate glands. The other species is humans.
- Calico cats are almost always female. The gene for coat color is sex-linked, so to express both orange and black coloring, the cat must have two copies of the X chromosome. Rarely, an abnormality produces a male cat with XXY chromosomes and calico coloring; these cats are always sterile. 
- Dogs' wet noses help them smell better. The mucus attracts and "catches" more chemical scent particles in the air. 
- Most blue-eyed white cats are born deaf—about 65 to 85 percent, says the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine.
- Dogs have no clavicles. Their disconnected shoulder blades allow them a greater range of motion for running and jumping.
- Both cats' and dogs' noses are unique, like human fingerprints. It's becoming more and more

(Continued on page 2)



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Did You Know?

(Continued from page 1)

common to take nose prints of dogs in case they're ever lost or stolen.



From <http://facts.randomhistory.com>:

- The oldest dog on record was an Australian cattle dog named Bluey, who lived 29 years and 5 months.
- On average, cats spend 2/3 of every day sleeping. That means a nine-year-old cat has been awake for only three years of its life.
- Most experts believe humans domesticated dogs before donkeys, horses, sheep, goats, cattle, cats, or chickens.
- According to Hebrew legend, Noah prayed to God for help protecting all the food he stored on the ark from being eaten by rats. In reply, God made the lion sneeze, and out popped a cat.



- A person standing still 300 yards away is almost invisible to a dog. But a dog can easily identify its owner standing a mile away if the owner is waving his arms.
- When a cat chases its prey, it keeps its head level. Dogs and humans bob their heads up and down.
- Dogs with big, square heads and large ears (like the Saint Bernard) are the best at hearing subsonic sounds.
- The technical term for a cat's hairball is a "bezoar".



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

Burlington On The Differences



Hello. Burlington here.

Ever hear the one about how dogs have owners, but cats have staff? Jersey and I have been cracking

each other up all week with these jokes.

It all began when Mallory found me sleeping on the top shelf in her closet. It was a nice, quiet, out-of-the-way place. Until she found me, of course. We cats love to have our places where we can get away and take naps, undisturbed.

"How did you get up there?" she asked when she found me. When I stretched and blinked at her, she said, "That's such a cat-ly thing to do," and smiled.

I heard Jersey snickering in the doorway, and she muttered under her breath, "You'd never see a dog doing something like that."

I replied, "That's only because they can't."

And, so, the Dogs vs Cats debate has been "game on" ever since.

"Dogs come when they're called," I told Jersey this morning, "But cats take a message and get back to you."

She giggled and said, "Yeah,

cats can be so snooty."

"Snooty?" I replied, "Snooty? Seriously?"

"Yeah. You know. It's like you think you're too good or something."

"It isn't that at all," I explained, "It's just that we're independent thinkers. Anyway, you're always so eager to please, it kind of boggles my mind."

"That's because dogs are naturally pack animals." Jersey said, She sat down in front of me and looked up as she spoke. "We're comfortable working together as a unit. There is a very clear order to a pack, and we understand the rules from birth."

"I know, the alpha dog and all that."

"But not in the way most people seem to think," she said, "A pack of dogs is almost always a family. The parents are in charge, and the younger dogs respect and defer to their elders. It's rare to find a group of dogs in the wild that aren't related. A lot of people think that dogs just randomly get together and whoever is the most dominant gets to be boss,



(Continued on page 3)



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Burlington the Cat

(Continued from page 2)

but that isn't the way it really works."

I asked Jersey how she knew this, having been a human's pet all her life and never having lived in the wild.

"I carry the instincts and memories of my ancestors in my soul . . ." she began. I gave her one of my *What's the real truth?* looks and she added, ". . ." and also, Matthew read an article to me this morning when he was on his computer."

"Groups of wild or stray cats are also usually related also, with some exceptions," I said, "We just don't have as much of a need to live within a group like dogs do. It doesn't mean we aren't social, despite the common assumption that all cats are aloof and prefer to be loners. Pet cats adore our human families, and even the other pets in the house, and we'd be lost without them. Once we form a bond, it's very important to us. In the wild, though, cats are equally as likely to be loners as they are to be part of a group."

Jersey tried to give me the *What's the real truth?* look, but on her, with her head cocked to the side and one ear up, it just looked like she'd heard a squeaky toy and wanted to play. I answered her



unspoken question anyway.

"Before I came to live here, I lived with a colony of stray and feral cats."

She gave me the appropriate look of awe and appreciation of my knowledge gained by experience, and then said, "It seems that dogs and humans are more alike than cats and humans when it comes to our desire for companionship."

I thought about her statement for a moment and replied, "That does seem to be true, which is kind of funny, since a cat's brain is biologically more similar to a human brain than it is to a dog's brain, and the regions in our brains that are responsible for emotions are identical in cats and humans."

Jersey looked at me with a sideways turn of her head.

"Really?" she asked, apparently thinking I had made that up.

"Mallory read an article to me," I told her.

Our conversation was interrupted when Mom and Dad came into the living room, each carrying a large storage tub. When they began to move the furniture around in the room, I knew what was about to happen.

"They're going to put up the Christmas tree," I informed Jersey.

(Continued on page 4)

What Does Your Cat Do When You Aren't Looking?

Ever wonder what your cat does when you aren't home, or you aren't watching?

So did Dr. Sonia Hernandez, who was interviewed for a segment of 20/20 in September. Specifically, her study was conducted on pet cats that are allowed to roam outside.



Dr. Hernandez of the University of Georgia, Kerrie Anne Lloyd, a graduate student at Warnell School

of Forestry & Natural Resources, and Greg Marshall of National Geographic teamed up and created the Kitty Cams (Critttercam) Project: "A window into the world of free-roaming cats". They attached small video cameras to 60 pet cats in Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, over the period of a year, from November 2010 through October 2011, to record their activities while roaming outdoors. The goal of the study was to determine the effect that free-roaming cats have on wildlife, but the video footage that was collected made something else abundantly clear as well: *The outdoors is a very dangerous place for cats!*

"The Kitty-Cam often caught cats using up their nine lives," narrates Deborah Roberts on the 20/20 segment, "wandering into storm drains or squeezing into crawl spaces, engaging in standoffs with possums or dogs, dodging through traffic, and lapping up any liquid."

See our web site for links to watch the video and glimpse some of the harrowing activities you can protect your cat from by keeping him or her safe indoors!



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Humor

Holiday Etiquette for Dogs

From pawsperouspets.com

- Be especially patient with your humans during this time. They may appear to be more stressed out than usual and they will appreciate long comforting dog leans.

- They may come home with large bags of things they call gifts. Do not assume that all the gifts are yours.



- Be tolerant if your humans put decorations on you. They seem to get some special kind of pleasure out of seeing how you look with fake antlers.

- They may bring a large tree into the house and set it up in a prominent place and cover it with lights and decorations. Bizarre as this may seem to you, it is an important ritual for your humans, so there are some things you need to know: Don't pee on the tree - don't drink water in the container that holds the tree. Mind your tail when you are near the tree-if there are packages under the tree, even ones that smell interesting or that have your name on them, don't rip them open - don't chew on the cord that runs from the funny-looking hole in the wall to the tree.



- Your humans may occasionally invite lots of strangers to come visit during this season. These parties can be lots of fun, but they also call for some discretion on your part: Not all strangers appreciate kisses and leans - don't eat off the buffet table - beg for goodies subtly - be pleasant, even if unknowing strangers sit on your sofa - don't drink out of glasses that are left within your reach.



- Likewise, your humans may take you visiting. Here your manners will also be impor-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 3)

She nodded. "Oh, yes," she said, "My other human used to do that."

"Did you try to climb the tree?" I asked, then immediately realized what a silly question that was.

She grinned but opted not to tease me for my momentary lapse in reason.

"No, but I thought the presents underneath were all for me," she said, then added, "Actually, there were a couple for me."

"Did she let you take the paper off of them?"

"She took the paper off for me, and then gave me the toys inside."

"I sometimes forget there are toys inside."

"Why?"

"Because I love to play with the paper so much!"

Suddenly, my attention was drawn to the string of brightly colored thorns that Mom calls "lights" as they were dragged across the floor. I couldn't help it; my body reacted before I could stop it and I went into a low crouch, my tail swishing back and forth, every muscle in my body alert and ready, and I began to shake. Just as I was about to spring up and pounce on the "lights", Dad stuck the fangs into the wall and they came alive with glowing

Burlington the Cat

color, and, well, I ran. Just for a moment. Because I wasn't expecting them to do that.

Jersey stood and barked at them. At least I kept some dignity when I ran, stopping after a few steps and sitting down, licking my paw in an "I meant to do that" posture. Jersey just kept yipping until Dad went to calm her and show her that the "lights" weren't going to hurt her.

Yes, cats and dogs are quite different in many ways.

There is one thing we have in common, though. We both love our family. We also both love to lie in front of the fireplace on a cold winter night, dozing and soaking up the warmth while we listen to Mallory and Matthew reading Christmas stories to Mom and Dad.

Oh, and we both love treats.

Okay, three things.





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A Dog-Gone Funny Evening!

Paws and Claws attended the Second Annual Dog-Gone Funny Comedy Night Benefit for Almost Home Animal Shelter on December 1st.

The fundraising event was a success and fun was had by all attending. There were silent auctions and raffles for a large selection of generously donated gift baskets containing a variety of items for humans and pets alike. A buffet dinner was included, and the crowd enjoyed an evening of comedy performances by hosted MC Harris Bloom (Founder of New York based animal rescue "Stewie to the Rescue!").



Paws and Claws was happy to present gifts of financial donations to two wonderful organizations that we support.



Diana Kane of PACS with Nancy Welsh of Almost Home Animal Shelter



Diana Kane of PACS with Toni and Marie of Hearts and Paws



Humor (Continued)

(Continued from page 4)

tant: Observe rule number 4 for trees that may be in other people's houses. Respect the territory of other animals that may live in the house - tolerate children - turn on your charm big time.

- A big man with a white beard and a very loud laugh may emerge from your fireplace in the middle of the night. DON'T BITE HIM!



Wrapping Presents 101 for Cat Owners

From dezert-rose.com

1. Clear large space on table for wrapping present.
2. Go to wardrobe and collect bag in which present is contained, and close door.
3. Open door and remove cat from wardrobe.
4. Go to cupboard and retrieve rolls of wrapping paper.
5. Go back and remove cat from cupboard.
6. Go to drawer and collect transparent sticky tape, ribbons, scissors, labels, etc.
7. Lay out present and wrapping materials on table, to enable wrapping strategy to be formed.
8. Go back to drawer to get string, remove cat that has been in the drawer since last visit, and collect string.
9. Remove present from bag.
10. Remove cat from bag.
11. Open box to check present, remove cat from box, r e p l a c e



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

(Continued on page 6)



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Humor (Continued)

(Continued from page 5)

- present.
12. Lay out paper to enable cutting to size.
 13. Cut the paper to size, trying to keep the cutting line straight.
 14. Throw away first sheet because cat tried to chase the scissors and tore the paper.
 15. Cut second sheet of paper to size by putting cat in the bag the present came out of. (Note from PACS: If the bag is plastic, don't really put the cat inside, due to suffocation risk!)
 16. Place present on cut-to-size paper.
 17. Lift up edges of paper to seal in present, wonder why edges now don't reach, and find cat between present and paper. Remove cat and retry.
 18. Place object on paper, to hold in place, while cutting transparent sticky tape.
 19. Spend next 20 minutes carefully trying to remove transparent sticky tape from cat with pair of nail scissors.
 20. Seal paper down with transparent sticky tape, making corners as neat as possible.
 21. Look for roll of ribbon; chase cat down hall and retrieve ribbon.
 22. Try to wrap present with ribbon in a two-directional turn.
 23. Re-roll up ribbon and remove paper that is now torn, due to cat's enthusiasm in chasing ribbon end.
 24. Repeat steps 12-22 until down to last sheet of paper.
 25. Decide to skip steps 12-16 in order to save time and reduce risk of losing last sheet of paper. Retrieve old cardboard



(Continued on page 7)

When Doggie Manners Matter



tasks in advance, because you may be unable to do them yourself if you're preparing the holiday feast."

The second piece of advice is: "Make it a special day for your dog, too"

When you are out shopping for a great chew or treat, try something new! Novelty is a great reinforcer for dogs who are experienced with a wide variety of chews, treats, and toys.

Next: "When you can't train, manage"

The tools of management include crates, gates, tethers, x-pens, and leashes, all put on the planet to make it easier for you to set your dog up for success. During those times you are unable to train your dog, place her on a tether, in her crate, or behind a baby gate, and give her something that she likes to do, like chewing on a stuffed, frozen Kong.

And finally, "Teach your dog what you actually want her to do".

The more you focus on problems, the more problems you'll find. Instead, focus on solutions, and teach your dog proactively. Many trainers offer "holiday manners" mini-courses just before the holidays. These classes can fill quickly, so be sure to register soon if you'd like to attend one before Christmas! With a little practice and a lot of consistency, your dog's good manners can be something you are thankful for this holiday season!

In our Humor section of this issue, there is advice, given purely in fun, for dogs to use discretion during the holidays by being sure to remember, "Don't eat off the buffet table - beg for goodies subtly", and "Don't drink out of glasses that are left within your reach".

All kidding aside, though, the holidays tend to bring with them an increase in houseguests and the presence of delicious foods, and dogs are even more tempted to misbehave. So, how should one go about teaching a dog to use good manners?

An article in Dogster Tips entitled, "Four Ways to Teach Your Dog Good Holiday Manners" advises to begin by being prepared.

"Make sure you have a good supply of the things you'll need to promote good behaviors," the article reads, "high-value treats already cut into pea-sized pieces, stuffed Kongs or other food dispensing toys, marrow bones, bully sticks, etc. Preparing also means getting your dog out for some decent exercise before your guests arrive, even if you're very busy. And you'll need to

talk with your family about who is responsible for each of these

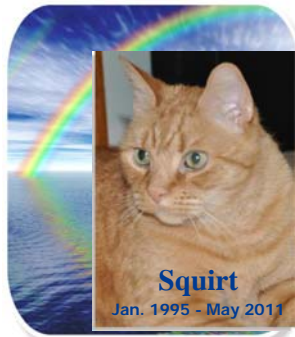


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Squirty's Words . . . From The Rainbow Bridge



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. 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: Can ear mites be harmful to my pet?

Answer: Ear mites are not only extremely uncomfortable for your pet; they can also be harmful in more than one way. Constant scratching of the ears can potentially lead to infection if your pet's claws or nails break the skin and cause bleeding. Many pets shake their heads so hard that small blood vessels can burst. This is known as an aural or ear-flap hematoma, and often requires surgery to correct. The mites themselves, if left untreated, severely damage the ear canals and eardrum, which can cause permanent hearing loss.



Ear mites are commonly occurring parasitic mites that resemble tiny spiders or crabs. They primarily infest the ears and ear canals of dogs and cats, but can be found on other parts of their bodies as well. Ear mites are more common among kittens and outdoor cats than indoor cats or dogs, but they can be passed from one dog to another and are therefore also a

risk for dogs that are socialized to play with other dogs outside their home. Common symptoms of ear mites in a dog or cat include:

- Head shaking
- Scratching and rubbing of ears
- Bleeding or scabs around the ears (from scratching)
- Inflammation of the ear
- Increased amount of ear wax
- Dark colored waxy secretion or discharge from the ear
- Crusting in the ear
- Ear infection
- Strong odor
- Hair loss or dermatitis



Your pet should be checked regularly for ear mites. Regular veterinary exams should include inspection of the ears, and you can be on the lookout as well. When you are grooming or playing with your pet, check his ears for excess wax, discharge, or strong odor. If you see something unusual, or your pet exhibits any of the symptoms listed above, talk with your vet. There are many available treatments, in both natural and medication form, and your vet will be able to recommend the best treatment for your pet and for the type of mites your pet may have.

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

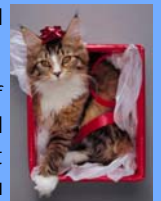
Humor (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

box that you know is right size for sheet of paper.



26. Put present in box, and tie down with string.
27. Remove string, open box and remove cat.
28. Put all packing materials in bag with present and head for lockable room.
29. Once inside room, lock door and start to re-lay out packing materials.
30. Remove cat from box, unlock door, put cat outside door, close door and re-lock.
31. Lay out last sheet of paper. (Admittedly this is difficult in the small area of the toilet, but try your best!)
32. Seal box, wrap with paper and start repairs by very carefully sealing down tears with transparent sticky tape. Now tie up with ribbon and decorate with bows to hide worst affected areas.
33. Label, then sit back and admire your handiwork, congratulating yourself on making good of a bad job.
34. Unlock door, and go to kitchen to make drink and feed cat.
35. Spend next 15 minutes looking for cat, before coming to obvious conclusion.
36. Unwrap present, untie box and remove cat.
37. Retrieve all discarded sheets of wrapping paper, feed cat and retire to lockable room for last attempt, making certain you are alone and the door is locked.
38. At time of handing over present, smile sweetly at receiver's face, as they try and hide their contempt at being handed such a badly wrapped present.
39. Swear to yourself that next year, you will get the store to wrap the darn thing for you.





Paws and Claws
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Donating to Good Causes for the Holidays?

*As we near the end of another year, there are many people who would like to make a charitable contribution for a cause that is important to them. It can be quite difficult to decide what charity to choose, however. Following are some **Tips Before Donating Your Hard-Earned Dollars**:*

- Do not feel compelled to give because you received a gift. Just because you received some mailing labels, cards or an umbrella, that doesn't mean you're required to reciprocate with a donation. Be especially wary of sweepstakes that require a contribution to enter. Again, a reputable charity doesn't need to employ such inefficient and deceptive fundraising tactics.
- Be careful of imposters and sound alike names. Scam artists often use sound-alike names to trick you into thinking they represent a legitimate charity. Some are even non-existent. They should be charged with "Felony Theft by Deception and False Impersonation of Charitable Organization".
- Hang up the phone. Ask the fundraiser to send you written information about the charity they represent, hang up the phone and do some research on your own. Once you feel comfortable with the charity, send the organization a check directly in the mail, thus ensuring 100% of your gift goes to the charity and not the for-profit fundraiser.
- Make sure that your donation is tax-deductible. Before giving a donation to any organization, make sure it is a 501(c)(3) charity. That means the group has filed paperwork with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), registering it as a U.S. nonprofit and enabling its contributors to take a tax-deduction for their gifts. A quick way to confirm the organization's status is to check with us. All the charities evaluated by Charity Navigator are 501 (c) (3) entities.
- Research the charity before you give. Take a look at the organization's finances. Make sure it is able to direct at least 75% of its budget on the programs and services it exists to provide. With a million nonprofits in America, you should have no problem finding one that matches your philanthropic interests and will put your donation to good use.
- Send your donation directly to the charity. Never divulge your personal or credit card information to those initiating contact. Once you've done your research, send your contribution directly to the charity you wish to support. Don't send cash as it can be lost or stolen. Also, you'll want to have paid by check or credit card so you have a receipt of your donation when it comes time to take the tax-deduction.
- Review Executive Compensation and total salaries, wages and benefits. You should know if your hard-earned dollars are just making it possible for charity executives to live the high life using your donations for themselves instead of the mission you think you are supporting. Don't be fooled when you are told it is necessary to pay excessive wages to get the best leaders. The best people are those who believe passionately in the cause. You can be sure that they will do the most good with the least amount of waste. Just take a look at the Salvation Army and you will see one of the best "people" charities, and take a look at Paws and Claws Society to see a charity that is really dedicated to helping animals.

You can read this list on our web site. In addition, you will find our article entitled "What Is An Ethical Charity?" and links to: "Dirty Little Secret Hurts Animals" and "Charities Deceive Donors".