

Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ








Issue 13, April 2013

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

For Fur-ther Information . . .

You can find more information on our web site at pacsnj.org!

- 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
- Look for "Share this page"      on any page in our web site to share the content via Facebook, twitter, email, or one of several other services



Happy
Spring!

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Did You Know?

As another Kitten Season begins, it seems appropriate to dedicate the Did You Know section of this issue of Burlington Reports to sharing some facts about how spaying or neutering your cat can impact his or her health in positive ways.

- Of course, the obvious initial benefit is prevention of pregnancy and the complications that can arise during and after pregnancy and delivery.
- Female cats that are spayed, especially those that are spayed at an early age before their first heat cycle, have a significantly lower risk of mammary (breast) cancer than those cats that are not spayed.
- Pyometra is a severe uterine infection that can prove to be life-threatening for unspayed cats. Cats develop this infection because of the changing hormone levels associated with coming in and out of heat. Spaying prevents this infection from occurring.
- Other hormone-induced conditions that can be avoided, either partially or completely, by spaying and neutering, include:

In Male Cats

- Testicular cancer
- Benign prostatic hyperplasia
- Acute and chronic prostatitis, prostatic abscess
- Perianal gland adenomas
- Orchitis (infection of the testicles)
- Venereal tumors
- Perineal hernia (abdominal organs bulging out of rectum)
- Inguinal hernia with potential organ strangulation

In Female Cats

- Cystic endometrial hyperplasia
- False pregnancies
- Mastitis (can occur during false pregnancy)
- Transmissible venereal sarcoma

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Humor

Cat and Dog Jokes from ebaumsworld.com, jokes.net, and scatty.com:

- Did you hear about the cat who drank 5 bowls of water? He set a new lap record.
- What kind of dog does Dracula have? A Bloodhound
- Did you hear about the cat who swallowed a ball of wool? She had mittens.
- What did the hungry Dalmatian say after its meal? That hit the spots!
- If lights run on electricity and cars run on gas, what do cats run on? Their paws.
- What dog loves to take bubble baths? A shampoodle
- What is a cat's favorite subject in school? HISS-tory.
- When is a black dog not a black dog? When it's a greyhound
- Which is the cats' all-time favorite song? "Three Blind Mice."
- Why do dogs run in circles? Because it's hard to run in squares!



Quotes About Cats from opossumsal.com:

"There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast."

"In a cat's eye, all things belong to cats."

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Burlington The Cat On Traveling With Your Pet



Hello, Burlington here.

My family and I went on a long-weekend road trip last month.

Mom, Dad, Mallory, Matthew, Jersey, and I (in my carrier) went to see Grandma and Grandpa for their 40th wedding anniversary.



They were suitably impressed about the Traveling

Cat, as they call me, and the fact that I'm comfortable going for car rides and to visit people in their homes. They liked Jersey, too, of course, and they found humor in the fact that the dog in our family is smaller than the cat in our family.

Mostly, though, the conversation at Grandma and Grandpa's house was about the family we met on our way there.

Once we'd been traveling for about three hours, Dad pulled into a rest stop so everybody could stretch their legs and use the facilities. Matthew clipped Jersey's leash to her collar and took her for a short walk.

"Burlington," I heard Mallory say,

"Do you have to pee?"

She set a travel-size

litter box on the car seat and opened my carrier door. I poked my head out, noticing that Dad had waited in the car with Mallory. He'd left the car running so we would have heat, and the doors and windows were closed so I wouldn't jump out. Mallory lifted me up as I stepped out of the carrier and gave me a kiss on my head before placing me into the litter box. I sniffed and walked around in the litter a bit, but I didn't have to go. Cats can hold it for a long time.

I jumped down from the car seat to the floor and sniffed around, then back up and between the front seats.

"Hi, Boy," Dad said when I stopped next to him and sat on the console. He scratched my chin.

I checked out the floor in the front seat. I found the scents of Mom and Dad, and I found a small cooler with some kind of snacks in it.

"Come on," Mallory finally said, "We're going to go soon."

She picked up the container with my treats and shook it. I hurried toward the noise and back into my carrier when she put a handful of the crunchy goodies in there.

The car doors opened and Mom came back, followed by Matthew

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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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Burlington the Cat

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and Jersey, and then Dad and Mallory got out.

"We met a camping family," Jersey said excitedly, her tiny nose up against the door of my carrier as she spoke to me, "With a little dog named Polly."

Almost as if she'd heard Jersey and understood her, Mom said to Matthew, "Jersey seemed to like that dog, Polly."

"Yeah," Matthew said, "They were having fun playing together."

Between Mom and Matthew's conversation, and Jersey's running commentary, I learned that Polly and her family were going on a camping trip in their RV.



"Awww, look," Matthew said, looking out his window and pointing, "Polly's bringing the ball back to their little girl."

Mom leaned over so she could see.

"She looks so happy, doesn't she?" Mom said, "That's great exercise, too."

Jersey suddenly jumped from the seat and began to sniff around on the floor. I lost sight of her for a few seconds, but when she

jumped back up onto the seat, she had her squeaky ball in her mouth. To illustrate, she bit it and made it squeak.

"Ahmahnnah pyay hech net tie ee hot," she said.

I simply stared at her, and finally she read my expression and dropped the ball. She then repeated, "I wanna' play fetch next time we stop."

Matthew laughed and said, "Hey, Mom, look at Jersey. She went and got her ball. Do you think she saw Polly playing ball with the kids?"

Before Mom could answer, the car doors opened again and Mallory and Dad got back into the car. Everyone buckled their seat belts and Dad and Mallory passed out the cold drinks they'd gotten from the vending machine.

"They're leaving," Matthew said, looking out his window again.

"Who?" Mallory asked.

"The people with Polly. They just got back into their RV and they're leaving."

Everyone stopped and watched for a moment.

The silence was broken by a small *bark!*

"Oh no," Mallory said, "Look,

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Is Your Pet Overweight?



Have you seen the videos of Holly, the overweight cat, doing her water aerobics to lose weight?

The story went viral in February after being picked up by Washington DC Channel 8's "The Pet Show With Dr. Katy".

Although Holly may look unhappy or afraid in some of the video shots, her owner, Dani Lawhorne, explains that Holly was nervous because of the film crew and the unfamiliar activity. She loves her exercise sessions in the pool at Olde Towne Pet Resort in Virginia.

Holly's weight problem began after she was prescribed steroids for a lesion in her mouth. When her vet recommended that Holly lose weight, Dani tried a new diet and exercise, with no results.

"She won't run around," Lawhorne says, "she won't play with cat toys, she doesn't like cat nip. Anything normal that cats like, she just doesn't like."

Then one day, Lawhorne, who works at Olde Towne Pet Resort, where dogs exercise regularly in the salt water pool, wondered if Holly might enjoy exercising in water.

"She doesn't scratch me in the bath," she said.

It turned out that Holly does enjoy the water, and is losing weight as a result of her weekly swim sessions!

See our web site for links to watch the video, plus a later interview with Dani Lawhorne on The Pet Show.

The Association for Pet Obesity Prevention's statistics quoted in the story say that 53% of dogs and 55% of cats are overweight or obese. The newest statistics, posted on March 12th for 2012, are even worse for cats: 52.5% of US Dogs (approximately 36.7 million) and 58.3% of US Cats (or approximately 43.2 million) are overweight or obese.

What unique ways have you found to help your pet get proper exercise? Please share with us in the comments section of this issue's page on our web site, or on our Facebook page.



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Humor

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"As every cat owner knows, nobody owns a cat."

"Cats aren't clean, they're covered with cat spit."

"Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow."

"Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods. Cats have never forgotten this."

Crossbeed Dogs from anvari.org:

Pointer + Setter = Poinsetter, a traditional Christmas pet

Pekingese + Lhasa
Apso = Peekasso, an
abstract dog



Irish Water Spaniel
+ English Springer
Spaniel = Irish Springer, a dog fresh and
clean as a whistle

Labrador Retriever + Curly Coated Re-
triever = Lab Coat Retriever, the choice of
research scientists

Newfoundland + Basset Hound = New-
found Asset Hound, a dog for financial ad-
visors

Terrier + Bulldog = Terribull, a dog that
makes awful mistakes

Bloodhound + Labrador = Blabador, a dog
that barks incessantly

Malamute + Pointer = Moot Point, owned
by....oh, well, it doesn't matter anyway

Collie + Malamute = Commute, a dog that
travels to work

Deerhound + Terrier = Derriere, a dog
that's true to the end

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there's Polly. They forgot her!"

Dad pushed his door open and jumped out of the car. He started to jog toward the RV but wasn't quick enough to flag them down before they were gone. When he returned to the car, he had Polly in his arms.

"We'll have to catch up to them," he said.

He leaned between the seats and handed Polly to Matthew. "Hang onto her, son, ok?"

Dad backed out of our parking spot and headed back toward the highway. Meanwhile, Polly and Jersey were bursting with little-dog enthusiasm, shaking their entire hindquarters rather than simply wagging their tails, and yipping at each other in excitement.

I scooted back until I was in the far corner of my carrier, watching distrustfully through narrowed eyes. Even though I'd grown to like Jersey, this dog wasn't Jersey, and my natural instincts told me to be wary of any animal I didn't already know. I didn't hiss, though, and instead chose to observe.

"I'm so glad you got to ride with us," Jersey said, "Want to see my ball?"

Burlington the Cat

Squeeeeeeak!

"Are you coming camping with us?" Polly asked.

"No, we're going to see Grandma and Grandpa," Jersey replied, "Are you going to their house with us?"

"I don't think so."

Mom told Dad, "The woman in the RV mentioned the Port Sebastian Campground. Isn't that off of exit 6, before we get to Mom and Dad's exit?"

"I think it is," Dad said, and reached into the map pocket in his door. "Here's a map," he said, handing it to her.

Mom found the location on the map while Dad drove.

"There they are," he said, "I see them, in front of that red pickup truck."

He caught up to them, and when Polly looked up and saw the back of the RV through the front windshield, she whimpered softly.

"There they are," she said.

"How did you get out?" Jersey asked her.



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Burlington the Cat

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"The door didn't close all the way, and I slipped out, thinking somebody knew where I was. The next thing I knew, I looked up and someone pulled the door from the inside, so it was closed all the way, and then they drove away."

"Exit 6 is about an hour from here," Mom said, "Then the campground is about another ten miles from there."



Polly laid her head down on the seat. "I didn't mean for them to leave me."

Jersey gave her a nudge with her nose.

"It'll be ok," Jersey said, "My family will help."

"Well, we'll just follow them and see what happens," Dad said, "Either they'll notice she's gone and pull over, in which case we'll follow them and give her to them, or they'll keep going until they get to the campground and we'll just follow them there."

"Or they might see our car in their rear view mirror and think we're stalking them," Mallory said.

"Well, if they do, they'll know better once they see that we're bringing Polly to them."

Mom pulled her cell phone from her purse and called Grandma and Grandpa to tell them we would be late, and why.

"Too bad we don't know Polly's family's cell phone number," Matthew said.

"Yeah," agreed Mallory, "Or have CB radios like Grandpa used to have."

"Breaker 1-9," Matthew said, deepening his voice and trying to sound all official, "We have a lost dog to return."

"Your family is silly and fun," Polly told Jersey, "like mine."

We drove for a long time, everyone talking back and forth like that, until finally we turned onto a bumpy road. A few minutes later, we stopped and Dad got out. We could hear him talking to the man who got out of the RV.

"Hey, we met you back at the rest stop," Dad said, and the man replied with recognition in his voice.

As soon as Polly heard the man's voice, she started wiggling again, and yipping at the top of her voice.

"Dad!"

"Well, Polly got left behind," our dad



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

Humor (Continued)

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Cat and Dog Haikus

We shared some cat and dog haikus in our June 2011 issue, and we thought it was time for more!

The haiku is a form of poetry that can be remembered this way:

Haikus are three lines
The first is five syllables,
Then seven, then five.

Cats - From bertc.com:

Oh no! my Human
Has been trapped by newspaper!
Cat to the rescue!

Humans are so strange.
Mine lies still in bed, then
screams!
My claws aren't *that* sharp.

Want to trim my claws?
Don't even think about it!
My cries will wake dead.

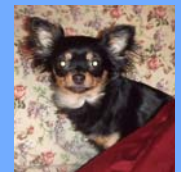


Dogs - Written by commenters on mysmartpuppy.com forum

If only I could
Be a little stealthier
I could steal his snack

I am a big boy
But this means nothing, you
know.
I still sleep with mom

Hi big brother Pete,
May I have your squeaky ball?
'Cause I'm stealing it.



Want to try your hand? Write your own pet haikus and share them in the comments at pacsnj.org/13/?p=416 or on our Facebook page (Look for our April 2013 post about pet haikus)!



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Did You Know? (Continued)

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- Ovarian and uterine tumors
 - Cystic ovaries and hyperestrogenism
 - Chronic endometritis
 - Vaginal hyperplasia and prolapse
 - Uterine torsion or uterine prolapse
- Neutered male cats tend to be less aggressive toward other cats and are likely to fight less than those that are not neutered (preventing potential injury).
 - Neutered male cats are more likely to be content to stay in your home. Cats that are kept strictly indoors are protected from many dangers including traffic, other animals, many diseases, severe weather, and unscrupulous people.
 - Repeatedly giving birth to litter after litter of kittens can shorten a female cat's life expectancy. We know that humans, too, can lose important nutrients during pregnancy and while nursing, and when multiple pregnancies are spaced too close together, there is not enough time to recover before more is lost, leading to potential health issues for mother and children alike. An article on Squidoo entitled Nutrition and Second Child Syndrome, explains:

"Babies take a lot out of the mother. They need calcium for their bones, iron to produce blood cells, and tons of vitamins. Ideally, the mother would be eating nutritionally dense foods that provide everything that the growing baby needs, but more than likely, the baby is also going to end up taking vitamins, fat, and minerals from the mom."

There are many myths about spaying and neutering that have been around for years simply because people tend to believe things that they hear

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said, "and we followed you to bring her back to you."

The reunion was emotional. Polly's family rushed to our car and Matthew pushed the door open so the kids could reach Polly.

"I thought you were sleeping in your bed the whole time," the little girl said to her as she scooped her up.

"You should have double-checked," her brother said to her, "It was your job to make sure she was in the RV with us!"

"I thought she was," the little girl protested, "she got in before I did."

"But she apparently got back out," their mom said, "From now on, we do head counts, no matter how sure we are."

They thanked Mom and Dad, acknowledging how bad the situation could have been if we hadn't picked Polly up. The mom started to cry,

Burlington the Cat

and our mom reassured her that everything was ok and that now, going forward, they would be extra careful, having had this experience.

"In the end, it's all good," Mom said.

That was how she concluded the story as she told it to Grandma and Grandpa, too.

"You're pet detectives, huh?" Grandma said to Mallory and Matthew, smiling.

"With my help," Jersey said, but of course I was the only one who understood her.

"Yes, Jersey," I said, "With your help."



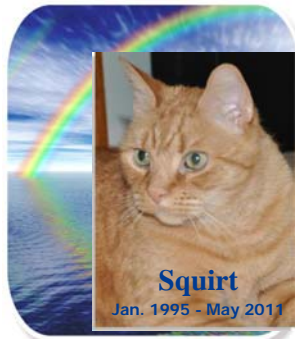
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Squirty's Words . . . From The Rainbow Bridge



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: Is it true that canned food is bad for cats' teeth?

Answer: Many veterinarians used to recommend a diet of dry food for cats, with little or no wet food, because they believed that cats eating dry kibble tended to have cleaner teeth and healthier gums. Over time, however, more vets and cat owners noticed that many cats fed a diet of dry-food-only were having more trouble with dehydration and related health concerns like kidney and bladder disease than cats fed only canned food or raw food.

There are those who believe, also, that dry food is actually worse for a cat's teeth because the little crumbs that break off when your cat bites down on the kibble can become lodged between teeth and at the gum line, encouraging more bacteria to form. This could liken the dry-food-cleans-teeth argument to someone saying that humans could clean their teeth by eating croutons.



The bottom line is that much of your cat's dental health depends on genetics, but cleaning your cat's teeth with an approved enzymatic cleaner will help to reduce plaque build up.

When choosing your cat's food, keep in mind that cats' ancestors in the wild eat a diet that is mostly protein. We cats are not omnivores, like humans and dogs. We don't need carbohydrates and do not naturally eat them. Dry cat foods generally have more fillers like wheat or corn gluten or other grains than canned or wet food, although you can find grain-free dry cat foods. Many brands of dry food have more calories than canned, also, which may make switching, or feeding your cat a combination of dry food and wet food, something to consider if your cat needs to lose weight. (Did you see our article about Holly, the cat who swims for exercise?)

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

Did You Know? (Continued)

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repeated over and over. Saying something repeatedly, however, doesn't make it true.

Here are a few of those myths:

Myth: If a female cat is allowed to have one litter before she is spayed, she will be a calmer, happier cat.

This isn't true. The best way to have a happy cat is to care for her properly, feed her good food, and give her lots of love. The best time to spay your female dog or cat is before her first heat, so there is no chance of pregnancy and she never knows the desire to mate. Cats can safely be spayed/neutered as young as 8 weeks and at 2 pounds in weight.

Myth: Pets become fat and lazy after being fixed.

There can be a tendency for a pet to put on some weight after the operation, but it is not true that the operation causes the condition. If your pet shows signs of being overweight, speak to your vet about a healthy diet and ideas for exercise. You may also see the article in this issue about overweight pets, and the Links for More Reading page on our web site.

Myth: My dog won't be a good watchdog if I neuter him.

His core personality won't change after the surgery. If he was a good watchdog before being altered, he will still be a good watchdog after.

Myth: I can't afford to have my pet spayed or neutered.

There is always help! You can find out about spay/neuter assistance or low cost spaying or neutering in your area by searching online.



Paws and Claws Society, Inc.

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**“Early Spring,” Phil says.
What does Trump Dog say?**

