

# Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ



Issue 17, September 2015

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

## For Fur-ther Information . . .

You can find more information on our web site at [pacsnj.org](http://pacsnj.org)!

- Find out "What's New" by following links on our home page or clicking on "News"
- Read other issues of Burlington Reports by clicking on "Newsletter", 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 "Newsletter" 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
- Hover over "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, download forms, and more
- 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?

Here is a quiz containing bits of facts and trivia about our non-human planet-mates

(Answers begin below)

1. Which of these species is known for the active role the father takes in caring for their young?

- A: The Darwin's Frog
- B: The Seahorse
- C: The Phalarope
- D: All of the Above

2. Which of the following animals is mythical?

- A: The Umbrellabird
- B: The Jackalope
- C: The Tasseled Wobbegong



Jackalope Family

3. Which of the following animals is real?

- A: The Blobfish
- B: The Phoenix
- C: The Amphithemis

4. Which of the following statements is False?

- A: Deer have no gall bladders.
- B: A moth has no stomach.
- C: A butterfly has two stomachs.
- D: A hippo's sweat is pink.
- E: Frogs cannot swallow without blinking.
- F: We share 70% of our DNA with a slug.

**ANSWERS** (See full links on our web site)

**#1: D: All of the Above.**

(Continued on page 2)



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### Did You Know? (Continued)

*(Continued from page 1)*

"The Darwin's frog is well known for the way in which it takes care of its young. The female lays her eggs, which are then guarded by the male for about 2 weeks. Once hatched, the male Darwin's frog carries the developing tadpoles in a pouch in his throat until they are tiny froglets and are able to hop away." - *from a-z-animals.com*

"The sea horse is best known for the remarkable fact that the male seahorse is the one that actually carries the eggs before they hatch...[The] female seahorse lays her eggs (anywhere between 8 and 600 eggs are laid depending on the species of seahorse), into the male's brooding pouch where they remain until they hatch within around 3 weeks." - *from a-z-animals.com*



"Phalaropes are noted among birds for complete reversal of sex roles. Females, larger and more brightly coloured than males, fight

for nesting territories and do the courting; males undertake all nesting duties and lead the young southward in autumn after the females have departed." - *from britannica.com*

### #2: B: The Jackalope

A: "The Umbrellabird is a large, tropical species of bird that is found inhabiting the rainforests of Central and South America." - *from a-z-animals.com*

*(Continued on page 3)*



Hello. Burlington here.

The summer of 2015 was "Preparedness Summer" in our household. It all began when Mallory came home from school one Friday in May, talking excitedly about an 1859 solar flare they'd studied in her class, which is known as Carrington Event.



"The sky was lit up all over the world," she exclaimed, "Gold miners in the Rocky Mountains thought it was morning! People in the Caribbean could see it, and in Mexico, and in Hawaii. It caused problems with telegraph systems all over Europe and North America. There was so much energy from the solar flare that some of the telegraph operators were able to send messages even without being connected to their power supplies!"

"That must have been some event," Mom agreed.

Mallory nodded. After a moment, she said, "There was a solar storm in 2012 that was similar to the Carrington Event, but it missed the Earth by about 9 days."

"Phew!" Mom said.

"Yeah. If it had hit the Earth, it would have

caused serious damage to electronics all over the whole world, that would take years to fix."

Dad and Matthew walked into the kitchen, having heard the conversation from the family room.

"That would be pretty scary," Dad said, and Mallory nodded.

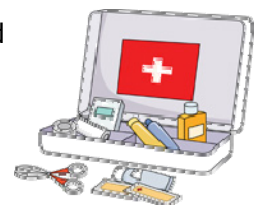
"You know," Dad suggested, "we should devise a family emergency plan, because preparedness is key in even a common event like a hurricane or a winter storm."

"That's true," Mom said, "And because our family includes pets, we need to make sure we have a plan that protects them as well."

Dad added, "With a plan in place, we can enjoy our lives without having to worry day-to-day about what may or may not happen."

After dinner that evening, while Jersey ran around the back yard, barking happily and chasing whatever it was she imagined was out there, and I lay curled up on the carpeted ledge next to the patio door, the family sat around the table and made lists.

"We've added a first aid kit, batteries, bottled water, and



*(Continued on page 3)*



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

(Continued from page 2)

canned food,, Mom said, "and what will we need in our emergency tub for Burlington and Jersey?"

My ears twitched at the sound of my name.



"Food, bowls, treats, toys, carriers" Matthew said.

"A litter box for Burlington and some newspapers for Jersey if she can't go outside," Mallory added.

"How about extra Thundershirts," Dad suggested, "in case they get nervous?"

"Oh, yeah!" Mallory agreed, and Mom added to the list.

Matthew said, "I saw something online about some stickers we can get for our windows to let emergency workers know that we have pets."

"Good thinking," Mom said, and added another item to her list.

Mallory looked over at me, noticing that I was listening.

"Don't worry, Burlington," she

said, "We'll always keep you and Jersey safe." She scooted her chair over and scratched me under my chin, eliciting a big purr.



The next morning, they left the house after breakfast and returned later with several shopping bags and a large plastic storage tub. They packed all the items into the tub and Dad carried it down into the basement.

"There," he said when he came back upstairs, "We can add more items as we think of them, but I think we're well prepared."

They did add a few items over the summer, and they also staged a few practice drills, just to make sure we were all comfortable with the plan.

"Now," Dad said that first day after putting the tub into the basement, "who wants to play squirt gun tag?"

"Squirt gun tag?" Mom asked.

"It's like regular tag," Dad said, reaching into a bag from the store that he'd set aside and no one had noticed, pulling out several squirt guns, "But you soak whoever you find when you make them It."

I watched the game from the screened patio, Jersey by my side after being banished from the

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### Did You Know? (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)

**B:** "The jackalope is a mythical animal of North American folklore (a so-called fearsome critter) described as a jackrabbit with antelope horns." - from [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)

**C:** "The tasselled wobbegong...is a species of carpet shark in the family Orectolobidae and the only member of its genus." - from [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)

#### #3: A: The Blobfish

##### A: The Blobfish

"... is a deep sea fish of the family Psychrolutidae. It inhabits the deep waters off the coasts of mainland Australia and Tasmania, as well as the waters of New Zealand." - from [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)



**B:** "A phoenix or phenix (Greek: φοῖνιξ phoinix) is a long-lived bird that is cyclically regenerated or reborn. Associated with the sun, a phoenix obtains new life by arising from the ashes of its predecessor." - from [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)

**C:** Amphithemis is a "...son of Apollo and Acacallis, who became the father of Nasamon and Caphaurus, or Cephalion, by the nymph Tritonis." - from [mythindex.com/greek-mythology](http://mythindex.com/greek-mythology)

**Answer #4: C, "A butterfly has two stomachs", is False**

See the 5 true statements, along with 295 more, on [thefactsite.com](http://thefactsite.com) (see link on our web site).





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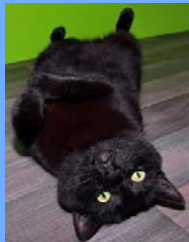
### Humor

#### Little Known Feline Ailments

*Having conquered cat flu, triumphed over tapeworm and braved behavioral quirks, it is time to focus attention on some oft-observed, but little-documented, afflictions of cats.*

#### COLLAPSIBLE LEGS

**Symptoms:** The affected cat places one side of its head on the ground as though cheek-marking the concrete, carpet etc. After several such maneuvers, the legs on that side of the cat suddenly collapse, leaving the cat wagging its feet in the air.



**Treatment:** This involves placing the palm of one hand on the exposed belly and rubbing gently. There are side-effects though - some feline sufferers attack the rubbing hand while others recover spontaneously, often after prolonged treatment. This condition is probably incurable and any cat which requires prolonged treatment after an attack will most likely suffer repeated attacks of collapsible legs throughout its lifetime.

#### SNUDGING

**Symptoms:** The affected cat repeatedly head-butts any available part of a readily available human and turns its head slightly so that the lips and cheek are rubbed against legs, arms, clothing etc. This condition gets its name from a contraction of the phrase "soggy nudging." Snudging may well be a form of excessive scent-marking. A bad attack can result in soggy clothing.

**Treatment:** Give the sufferer lavish affection. Most attacks subside between 10 minutes to 1 hour after onset of symptoms. You may need to dry off snudged clothing or skin. Attacks recur frequently, usually when the most readily available human is engrossed in a TV program, book or telephone call.

#### BED-HOGGING

**Symptoms:** The cat spreads to take up all

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### National Pet Days

According to the web site nationaldaycalendar.com, the following is a list of this Fall/Winter's National Days involving pets. Which days will you celebrate, and how?

**September 13** (Second Sunday in September): **National Pet Memorial Day** - to remember pets, both past and present. On social media, use #NationalPetMemorialDay.

**September 13** (Second Sunday in September):



**National Hug Your Hound Day** - Give your dog a big hug (but only if he/she is comfortable with hugs)! Use NationalHugYourHoundDay on social media.

**September 19** (Third Saturday in September): **Puppy Mill Awareness Day** - Use #PuppyMillAwarenessDay on social media.

**September 19** (Third Saturday in September): **Responsible Dog Ownership Day** - Use #ResponsibleDogOwnershipDay on social media.

**September 19** (Third Saturday in September): **Responsible Dog Ownership Day** - Use #ResponsibleDogOwnershipDay on social media.

**September 23: National Checkers Day and Dogs in Politics Day** - A day to commemorate the Checkers Speech, which, according to Wikipedia, was "...an address made on September 23, 1952, by the Republican vice presidential candidate, California Senator Richard Nixon. Nixon had been accused of improprieties relating to a fund established by his backers to reimburse him for his political expenses. With his place on the Republican ticket in doubt, he flew to Los Angeles and delivered a half-hour television address in which he defended himself, attacked his opponents, and urged the

audience to contact the Republican National Committee (RNC) to tell it whether he should remain on the ticket. During the speech, he stated that regardless of what anyone said, he intended to keep one gift: a black-and-white dog who had been named Checkers by the Nixon children, thus giving the address its popular name." Use #NationalCheckersDay or #DogsInPoliticsDay on social media.

**October is Adopt A Shelter Dog Month**

**October is also Wishbones for Pets Month** - from wishbonesforpets.com, Each year from October 15th through November 30th, "...professional pet sitters throughout the United States and Canada offer a pet supply and fund drive approximately six weeks prior to Thanksgiving with all the proceeds going to their favorite pet related charity in their local community." See their web site for more information.

**October is also National Animal Safety and Protection Month.** See bit.ly/1hCOo3a for more information.

**October 1: National Fire Pup Day** - to recognize the canine members of our fire departments. Use #NationalFirePupDay on social media.



**October 16: National Feral Cat Day** - Use #NationalFeralCatDay on social media.

**October 29: National Cat Day** - Celebrate your cat(s), raise awareness for cats in need of rescue. For more information, see nationalcatday.com. Use #NationalCatDay on social media.

**November is Adopt A Senior Pet Month**

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### National Pet Days

(Continued from page 4)

#### November is also National Pet Cancer Awareness Month

**November 1: National Cook for Your Pets Day** - With a little advice from your vet on your pet's nutritional needs and some research on recipes and specific foods and ingredients to avoid, you can prepare healthy and wholesome foods for your furkids. Just as with cooking for ourselves and our human loved ones, making it at home gives us control over whether the food contains preservatives or chemicals. Use #CookForYourPetsDay on social media.

**November 7: National Canine Lymphoma Awareness Day** - From [facebook.com/clearcaninecancer](http://facebook.com/clearcaninecancer): "Make sure to wear Lime Green to support dogs and owners battling canine lymphoma, honor those lost to the disease and thank the doctors and researchers dedicated to wiping out the disease." On social media, use #caninecancerawareness.

**December 2: National Mutt Day** - Celebrated every December 2nd and July 31st, "National Mutt Day was created to be celebrated on two dates per year to raise awareness of the plight of mixed breed dogs in shelters around the nation and to educate the public about the sea of mixed breed dogs that desperately await new homes. Mixed breed dogs tend to be healthier, better behaved, they live longer and are just as able to perform the duties of pure bred dogs - such as bomb and drug sniffing, search and rescue and guiding the blind. There are millions of loving and healthy mixed breed dogs sitting in shelters, who are desperately searching for a new home." (Quoted from [nationalmuttday.com](http://nationalmuttday.com)) See web site for more information. On social

media, use #NationalMuttDay.

#### January 14: National Dress Up Your Pet Day -

A day to have fun with pet fashion and also promote pet adoption. For more information, visit [dressupyourpet-day.com](http://dressupyourpet-day.com). Use #DressUpYourPetDay on social media.



**February 20: National Love Your Pet Day** - We know, you love your pet every day, right? But if the people can have Valentine's Day in February, why can't our pets have a special day when we shower them with gifts and extra attention, just to make sure they know they are appreciated?



**February 23: National Dog Biscuit Day and International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day** - Celebrate your dog's favorite treat! Check out [nationaldaycalendar.com/national-dog-biscuit-day-february-23](http://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-dog-biscuit-day-february-23) for some recipes to make home made dog biscuits!

**Last Tuesday in February: Spay Day USA** - From [nationaldaycalendar.com](http://nationaldaycalendar.com), "This day was created by the Doris Day Animal League in 1994 as a day to bring attention to the pet overpopulation problem in the United States and also to encourage animal population control by neutering pets."

See our March newsletter for pet-related National Days in the spring and summer!



### Humor (Continued from page 4)

available free bed space at night. It then expands a bit more until any human occupants occupy the smallest possible area of bed. It may do this on top or underneath the covers or on the pillow. It is highly contagious - any other cats on the bed will also develop symptoms of bed-hogging.



**Treatment:** The most obvious solution is to evict the cat from the bed. If this is morally unfeasible, train yourself not to give way as the cat expands. Buying a bigger bed is probably pointless as most affected cats can easily expand to fill standard, queen-sized and king-sized beds. Otherwise, simply train yourself to sleep while hanging precariously off the side of the bed. Attacks of bed-hogging have been known to last up to 23 hours (in one case a 3-day attack was noted by a cat-owner who was confined to bed with flu; the cat thoughtfully kept her company during this time).

#### IRRITABLE LAP SYNDROME

**Symptoms:** The cat appears unable to settle comfortably on laps, instead treading, kneading, rearranging itself, fidgeting, vocalizing, getting up and turning around, falling off lap and getting back on again, attacking magazines, needlework, computer keyboard, telephone etc.

**Treatment:** Immediate treatment is essential. Drop whatever you are doing (literally if need be) and give 100% attention to the sufferer otherwise symptoms may escalate and become quite distressing to the lap-owner. Only prolonged attention will cure an attack of Irritable Lap Syndrome. Like Collapsible Legs this syndrome is incurable, although attacks may be effectively treated as and when they occur.

#### GREEBLINGZ

**Symptoms:** Random dashes to helter-skelter running through house in pursuit of unseen

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### Humor (Continued from page 5)



prey. Greeblingz are believed to be non-visible entities and some authorities have linked them to UFO sightings or feel that they may be diminutive other-dimensional beings.

Cats suffering from greeblingz typically have wild-eyed expressions. There is a minor danger of greeblingz attaching themselves to humans; if a cat tackles such greeblingz, injury to humans may result. A very few cats are naturally immune.

**Treatment:** None known. Anti-epileptics are ineffective as the condition appears unrelated to other forms of seizure. Avoid getting in the way of a cat engaged in greebling hunting. Attacks usually subside spontaneously, perhaps as greeblingz return to their own dimension. These irritating creatures are not visible to human eyes, but no doubt the superior sight and hearing of cats enables them to see them.

-from infinitecat.com

OOOOO

*A guy is driving around Oklahoma and he sees a sign in front of a house: "Talking Dog For Sale." He rings the bell and the owner tells him the dog is in the backyard.*

*The guy goes into the backyard and sees a Labrador Retriever sitting there.*

*"You talk?" he asks.*

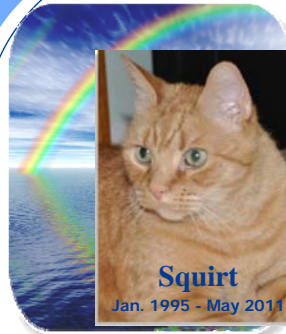
*"Yep," the Lab replies.*

*"So, what's your story?"*

*The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA about my gift, and in no time at all they had me jetting from coun-*

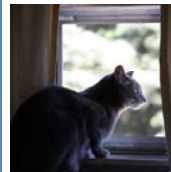
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### Squirty's Words . . . From The Rainbow Bridge



*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 (hover over "Newsletter" on our menu). Let Squirty meet your pet(s) at the Rainbow Bridge and escort them to Pet Heaven.*

**Question:** Hi Squirty. My son is getting ready to go away to college this fall. Our cat, Bubbles, is very attached to him. How can we make this transition easier for Bubbles?



**Answer:** That's an excellent question, because while many people think of cats as being aloof and independent, we do become attached to our people and we come to count on routine. After getting used to your son being home all summer, Bubbles might feel confused and sad when it seems, to him, that your son suddenly disappears. Some cats even experience serious separation anxiety.

#### Things to do:

Provide activities that are stimulating to your cat, both physically and mentally, such as interactive play to encourage exercise, the introduction of a new toy (you can also rotate your cat's current toys so they can be rediscovered periodically), or a game of hide-and-seek that involves a hidden treat reward.

Some cats are calmed by soothing music, which you can leave on during the day when you aren't home.

Most importantly, be sure to spend quality time with your cat. This can be as simple as relaxing together at the end of the day. Your loving presence, and the fact that your cat can see that you are not acting as if anything is wrong (i.e. that the reason your son is not at home doesn't mean he isn't coming back), will provide immense comfort for your cat.

#### Things not to do:

If your cat is very agitated or is acting out (such as being destructive), don't use treats or other things that can be seen as rewards in an attempt to change the behavior. Your cat will never forget that a particular behavior resulted in a reward, and you just may be inviting that behavior to continue every time your cat wants that reward! Instead, you may try to distract kitty with a favorite toy or be there for comfort. If your cat is not welcoming your attention, do not force play or petting. This can cause anxiety to worsen. Sometimes we all just need a little time alone.

If your cat is still very upset and does not seem to be adjusting to the change after a week or two, talk with your vet. He or she can determine whether there is a deeper anxiety issue.

Bubbles may not be the only one who has a difficult time adjusting to the separation. Your son might really appreciate it if you send him pictures of videos of Bubbles, and he may enjoy seeing and talking to him over a video chat.

P.S. Some colleges actually allow cats on campus! Check to see if your son's school is one; Bubbles might be able to go to college with him!



Peace, Love, and Head-Butts,  
Squirty



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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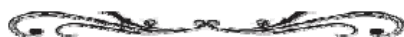
### Burlington The Cat (Continued from page 3)

game for barking and giving away everyone's hiding places. The kids laughed and squealed and the whole family sounded like they were having a blast. I glanced over at Jersey, who yawned and laid her head down contentedly.

"My sentiments exactly," I said, and followed suit. It felt great, lying there, feeling so safe and protected by my family.



Burlington is a fictional gray tabby cat who belongs to a family in the North-east United States. "Mom" is Paige Turner, owner of a small book store. "Dad's" real name has not been mentioned to date. Their two children are Mallory and Matthew. The family also adopted a Chihuahua and named her Jersey. See our web site for other issues of Burlington Reports and read the ongoing adventures and learning experiences of Burlington and his family!

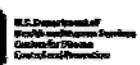




See our web site for links to helpful information and advice on emergency preparedness for your pets, including this Pet Emergency Checklist produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

### PET EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

Stock up on items your pet may need during a disaster. Below are some items to help get you started.

- Pet first-aid kit
- Food
- Water
- Bowls
- Extra collar
- Extra leash
- Medical records
- Two-week supply of medications
- Crate or sturdy carrier
- Blanket
- Recent photos of your pets (in case you are separated and need to make "Lost" posters)
- Toys and bones
- Disposable litter trays
- Litter or paper toweling
- Disposable garbage bags for clean-up



### Humor (Continued from page 6)

*try to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running.*

*"But the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security wandering near suspicious characters and listening in.*

*"I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals. I got married, had a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired."*

*The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog.*

*"Ten dollars," the guy says.*

*"Ten dollars? This dog is amazing. Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?"*

*"Because he's a liar. He never did any of that stuff."*

Yuh-huh. Did so.



OOOOO

*What kind of dog can use the phone? A Dial-Matian*

*What kind of dog would you find in a cave? A Bat Terrier*

*What do you get when you cross a small dog and a large boat? A Ship Tzu*

*What did the hungry Dalmatian say after his meal? "That hit the spots!"*

*Why are Dalmatians no good at "Hide and Seek"? They're always spotted!*

*What dog will laugh at any joke? A Chi-ha-ha*

*Where do the dogs go for the Macy's Thanksgiving parade? New Yorkie*



Paws and Claws  
Society, Inc.

## Paws and Claws Society, Inc.

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Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

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

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## Head Pressing: A Sign of a Pressing Emergency

Head pressing, when animals sit or stand with their head pressed against a wall or other firm, flat surface for no apparent reason, is a warning sign of a serious medical condition that requires immediate medical attention. This condition can be seen in cats and dogs, but is also seen in other animals, such as horses, cows, and goats.

Head pressing is generally an indication of a neurological disorder or of toxicity due to liver damage.

Some of the potential causes of head pressing include:

- Prosencephalon disease
- Liver shunt
- Brain tumor
- Metabolic disorder (e.g., hyponatremia or hypernatremia)
- Stroke

- Infection of the nervous system (rabies, parasites, bacterial, viral or fungal infection)
- Head trauma
- Liver neurotoxicity
- Viruses that cause encephalitis or meningoencephalitis

Any time you notice your pet engaging in a behavior that strikes you as odd or unusual and out-of-character, mention it to your veterinarian. Many people would see head pressing as quirky and cute and would never realize that it could be a symptom of such a serious illness!

Other symptoms that may accompany the types of illnesses that can cause head pressing are:

- Drooling
- Pacing or Circling
- Changes in learned (trained) behavior
- Seizures
- Damaged reflexes
- Visual problems

