

Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ



Issue 21, September 2017

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

For Fur-ther Information . . .

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

[Home](#) [Programs](#) [Furry Angels](#) [News](#) [Compassion Central](#) [Newsletter](#) [Tips From The Trenches](#) [Caretaker's Corner](#)

- Find out What's New by following links on our home page or clicking "News".
- Read other issues of Burlington Reports by clicking "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 Squirt'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".
- Look for "Share" buttons throughout our site to share content via Twitter, Facebook, email, and other services








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Did You Know? (Guess Which Animal I Am)

Can you guess what animals are described below? (Answers are on page 7.)

1. I have two stomachs to help me digest complex organisms. My hydraulic water vascular system, rather than a jointed, movable skeleton, aids me in movement. I can change my gender any time I want, and I'm able to regenerate into a completely new version of myself if I lose a limb. 
2. I'm a very social animal that lives in large groups that can contain as many as a few hundred members. We form close bonds by feeding, sleeping and grooming together. Our teeth are very similar to human teeth with a series of large, flat molars, perfect for grinding down vegetation. We can save extra food for later in our flexible cheek pouches! 
3. I sleep at night, and in the morning, I will often travel long distances to find food. I can break the shells of nuts and seeds with my mouth. I'm intelligent and very sociable and I'm known to have the same breeding partner for my whole life. Couples not only breed together but we also share food and help to groom one another. 
4. I am a medium-sized carnivore, a solitary and nocturnal mammal, and I'm found exclusively on the island of Madagascar - nowhere else on Earth! Incredibly agile at both climbing and leaping, I am the largest natural predator in Madagascar. I have no predators myself, other than the rare exception of a stray Crocodile, and of course Humans, due to hunting and deforestation. 
5. I was first domesticated in Ancient Egyptian times, bought and sold on the banks of the River Nile. My coat has a mottled appearance, I have a broad head with large ears, and you guessed right: I have excellent hearing. I am very active, intelligent, playful, loyal, and 

(Continued on page 2)



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Did You Know?

(Continued from page 1)

- easy to train. I love a lot of attention, and did I mention I'm very active?
6. I'm a herd animal with long, shaggy hair to keep me warm and dry, and I can be found in the mountainous regions of central Asia. We tend to gather in groups of 10 to 100, most of the group being female. We breed in September and carry our young for nine months, like humans do. We almost always give birth to a single baby. Twins occasionally happen but are very rare. Our children become independent by the time they are about a year old, and our average lifespan in the wild is about 20 years.
 7. It is believed that I was given my name more than 1,000 years ago. My voice is most often heard at dawn, but I've been known to make my sound at night if I do not have a mate and I want to attract one. While I am easily heard, I am not so easy to spot visually, as I like to hide in dense foliage. We migrate over vast distances each year.
 8. I spend the majority of my life in the trees, my small and lightweight body enabling me to easily leap between them. I can move as fast as 35 mph and I'm able to swing myself 15 meters from tree to tree. I do not have a tail. We live in groups that consist of an alpha male and female and their offspring. We usually mate for life. Our females give birth to a single baby after about 7 months gestation. The mother and father look after the baby until it is about a year old, but the baby usually stays close to its mother until it is between 6 and 7 (old enough to start a family of it's own).

(See Page 7 for Answers!)



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

Burlington The Cat On Pets Aging



Hello, Burlington here.

Can you believe it's the start of another fall/winter season

already? Where does the time go?

It's been almost 6 1/2 years that I've been sharing my stories with you. Mallory is in high school now, her brother not far behind. And as for me, well, I was shocked to hear Mom say yesterday that I'm . . .

I'm not sure I can actually say the word . . .

She said I'm . . .

Cough

Mature. There. I've said it. She said I'm *mature*, which doesn't mean that I behave like an adult, like when Mallory uses the word with her friends. No, in this case, I'm sure it's just a nice way to say I've passed my prime.

Oh, don't get me wrong; I'm not feeling old. I'm only 8 1/2, which is not old. My age equivalent in human years is about 50. While that is older than Mom and Dad, the human parents in my household, it's still a good bit younger than the age at which many humans "retire" (which means they don't have to go out to work every day). Our neighbor, Mrs.

Reed, said retirement made her feel as if her life had just begun.

Mom did say, however, that age-related changes begin in cats who are in middle age, which the vet said is about 6-12 years. The age range for the "mature" title, he said, is 7 to 10 years.

I haven't noticed many age-related changes so far, and Dr. Tails was very pleased at my last checkup.

"There are some important things to watch for in mature cats," he explained, "Age brings an increased risk of conditions such as diabetes, kidney disease, high blood pressure, thyroid problems, and cancer. Burlington's coat condition is great and his weight is in the normal range. You haven't noticed any vomiting, changes in thirst or urination, diarrhea, constipation, reduced appetite?"

Mom shook her head and said "No" to each item as Dr. Tails spoke.

I had been wondering, of late, why everyone in my family had begun talking more quietly, until Mom told Dr. Tails that she thought I was experiencing some hearing loss. (Come to think of it, that might explain why that dreaded beast called Vacuum Cleaner doesn't seem nearly so scary to me as in the past.)



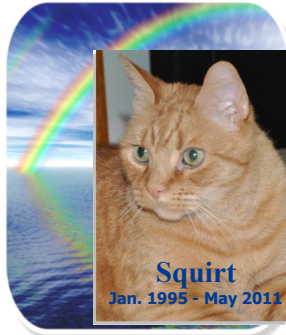
(Continued on page 7)

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Squirty's Words . . . From The Rainbow Bridge

Question: Some humans (both children and adults) have sensory processing issues - do some cats and dogs have them as well?

Answer: Cats and dogs experience many of the same conditions and symptoms that humans do. The variance in the way one cat, dog, or person processes sensory stimuli compared to another cat, dog, or person is no exception.



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 or to learn more about our animal family members. Ask Squirty a question or share your pet memorial story on our web site (hover over "Newsletter" on our menu). Let Squirty answer your questions or meet your pet(s) at the Rainbow Bridge and escort them to Pet Heaven.

Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) in humans, as defined by WebMd, is:

" . . . a condition in which the brain has trouble receiving and responding to information that comes in through the senses.

"Formerly referred to as sensory integration dysfunction, it is not currently recognized as a distinct medical diagnosis.

"Some people with sensory processing disorder are oversensitive to things in their environment. Common sounds may be painful or overwhelming. The light touch of a shirt may chafe the skin."

While sensory processing disorder is much more common in children with autism and other developmental disorders, it is associated with many other conditions as well.

Cats and dogs, in our natural environment (i.e. the environment of our wild relatives and ancestors), would not come into contact with human-related noise and other sensory stimuli, and let's face it: human environments can be loud and overwhelming. Televisions and radios; telephones; cars, with their engine noises, horns, unpredictable movements and exhaust smells; flashy lights; perfumes and colognes; and even mingled voices in places where large numbers of humans gather - all can be difficult for animals. We may perceive unknown or unexpected stimuli as danger (possibly even life-threatening) and we will react in the same way we would react to danger. While our reaction may not appear to be an appropriate one for the situation, to someone who understands the situation, it is perfectly appropriate to us in the moment, as our perception of the situation is our reality.

Some may argue that most dogs and cats have some sensory processing issues compared to our human families, when observing us adjusting to their environments. Many pet-owners can tell you, though, that



there *are* some dogs and cats that become overstimulated much more easily than others, which validates our knowledge that we are not all alike, just as all humans are not alike.

Having an understanding of sensory overwhelm or overstimulation can go a long way in helping your pet to feel safer, more comfortable, and more confident in unfamiliar or frightening situations.

An animal that is feeling sensory overwhelm may cower, run, hiss, snarl, growl, bite . . . reactions are unique to the individual, just as in humans

(Continued on page 6.)

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Caption This:

Think you may know what these animals are saying or thinking?

Be sure to look for these pictures on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pacsnj/) and share your captions!



----- Click here if you're reading this on a device connected to the Internet.



1: " _____ "



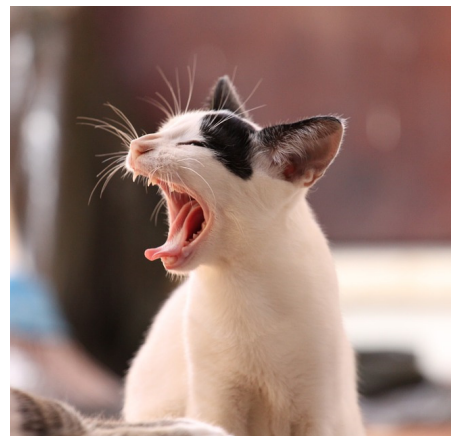
2: " _____ "



3: " _____ "



4: " _____ "



5: " _____ "

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Caption This: (Continued)

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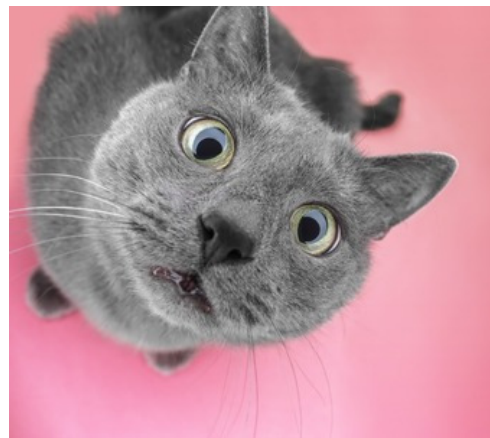
6: " _____ "



7: " _____ "



8: " _____ "



9: " _____ "



10: " _____ "



Paws and Claws
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What is Feline Infectious Peritonitis?

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP), is a disease affecting roughly 1 in 5,000 households with one or two cats. It is caused by the interaction between the immune system and certain strains of a virus called feline coronavirus. While most strains of feline coronavirus are avirulent (meaning they do not cause disease), a mutation of feline enteric coronavirus (FECV) – (Feline coronavirus FCoV) is the cause of the feline infectious peritonitis virus (FIPV). The mutated virus uses the body's own antibodies to invade and infect the white blood cells, which transport the virus through the cat's body, causing an intense inflammatory reaction around vessels in the tissues where infected cells are located. This is often in the abdomen, kidney, or brain.

This progressive disease is almost always fatal.

According to the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine's web site:

"Any cat that carries any coronavirus is potentially at risk for developing FIP. However, cats with weak immune systems are most likely to develop the disease, including kittens, cats already infected with feline leukemia virus (FeLV), and geriatric cats. Most cats that develop FIP are under two years of age, but cats of any age may develop the disease.

"FIP is not a highly contagious disease, since by the time the cat develops clinical disease only a small amount of virus is being shed. Feline coronavirus can be found in large quantities in the saliva and feces of cats during the acute infection, and to a lesser extent in recovered or carrier cats, so it can be transmitted through cat-to-cat contact and exposure to feces. The virus can also live in the environment for several weeks. The most common transmission of feline coronavirus occurs when infected female cats pass along the virus to their kittens, usually when the kittens are between five and eight weeks of age.

"FIP is relatively uncommon in the general cat population. However, the disease rate is much higher in multiple-cat populations, such as some shelters and catteries. FIP has also been shown to be more common in certain breeds, but the research is still unclear as to whether these breeds are more susceptible because of their genetics or whether they are exposed to feline coronavirus more often because many of them come from catteries."

Because each infected cat may show different symptoms that are similar to those of many other diseases, and because there is currently no simple or definitive diagnostic test for FIP, the disease can be difficult to diagnose.

Pets.WebMD says this about symptoms of FIP:

"FIP manifests in a "wet" form and a "dry" form. Signs of both forms include fever that doesn't respond to antibiotics, anorexia, weight loss and lethargy. In addition, the wet form of FIP is characterized by accumulation of fluid in the abdominal cavity, the chest cavity, or both. Cats with fluid in the chest exhibit labored breathing. Cats with fluid in the abdomen show progressive, nonpainful abdominal distension. In the dry form of FIP, small accumulations of inflammatory cells, or granulomas, form in various organs, and clinical signs depend on which organ is affected. If the kidneys are affected, excessive thirst and urination, vomiting and weight loss are seen; if the liver, jaundice. The eyes and the neurologic

(Continued on page 7)

Squirty's Words . . . From The Rainbow Bridge (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)



with sensory overwhelm.

As you get to know your pet, take note of the situations that tend to trigger him or her.

If they are situations that can be easily avoided, you may find that small changes in the way you do things may be all that is necessary. Lower the volume of your

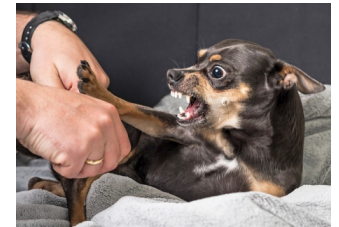
TV or music if noise is a problem, block window views if your pet is overstimulated by what's going on outside, establish a predictable routine (pets are comforted by predictability).

However, some sensory situations cannot easily be avoided, such as fireworks, thunder, or interaction with other animals and humans other than their owners (when taking a walk or visiting the vet). Good news: There are helpful tools for those (and more) situations, including the Thundershirt, stress-relief aromatherapy products made specifically for pets, and desensitizing or counterconditioning exercises.

(See "Links for Further Reading" at pacsnj.org for more information.)

Peace, Love, and Head-Butts,

Squirty



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Burlington The Cat (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)

Otherwise, as I told Jersey when we arrived back home from the vet, everything looks A-Ok and I'm nowhere near my Senior years just yet.

"What?" she said, "You're over there to see her ears . . .?"

I repeated myself a bit more loudly.

Jersey is a senior dog now, and her hearing loss is much more pronounced than mine.

"But small dogs live longer than large dogs," she likes to remind everyone. That fact makes it rather impossible for humans to make across-the-board statements about the aging process in dogs, the way they can about cats.

"Mom's got us covered," I assured her, "We're both in excellent health and she knows what signs to watch for as we age. You and I may be considered 'mature' or 'senior' according to the charts in Dr. Tails' office, but we can still play . . ."

Jersey jumped in: "Like a puppy and a kitten?"

"Well, like a younger dog and cat."

She wagged her tail and grinned. "I knew it. We're not old yet!"

No. We still have a lot more tail-chasing, sunshine-napping, toy flinging, lap-cuddling, food-eating, window-gazing years ahead of us.



Answers to Quiz on Pg. 1 & 2:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. I'm a starfish! | 5. I'm an Abyssinian cat |
|  |  |
| 2. I'm a baboon! | 6. I'm a yak! |
|  |  |
| 3. I'm a macaw! | 7. I'm a nightingale! |
|  |  |
| 4. I'm a fossa! | 8. I'm a gibbon! |
|  |  |

FIP (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

system are frequently affected, as well."

Promising research on FIP is being done. In the meantime, Cornell University advises:

"In multiple cat environments, keeping cats as healthy as possible and minimizing exposure to infectious agents decreases the likelihood of cats developing FIP. Litter boxes should be kept clean and located away from food and water dishes. Litter should be cleansed of feces daily, and the box should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected regularly. Newly acquired cats and any cats that are suspected of being infected should be separated from other cats. Preventing overcrowding, keeping cats current on vaccinations, and providing proper nutrition can also help decrease the occurrence of FIP in groups of cats."

Burlington is a fictional gray tabby cat who belongs to a family in the Northeast 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!

Life stage	Age of cat	Human equivalent
 Kitten birth to 6 months Tigger 3 months old	0 - 1 month	0 - 1 year
	2 - 3 months	2 - 4 years
	4 months	6 - 8 years
	6 months	10 years
 Junior 7 months to 2 years Sugar 13 months old	7 months	12 years
	12 months	15 years
	18 months	21 years
	2 years	24 years
 Prime 3 years to 6 years Hose 3 years old	3	28
	4	32
	5	36
	6	40
 Mature 7 years to 10 years Nemo 8 years old	7	44
	8	48
	9	52
	10	56
 Senior 11 years to 14 years George 13 years old	11	60
	12	64
	13	68
	14	72
 Geriatric 15 years+ Chinarose 16 years old	15	76
	16	80
	17	84
	18	88
	19	92
	20	96
	21	100
	22	104
	23	108
	24	112
	25	116

2010 AAFP/AAHA Feline Life Stages

On average, smaller dogs mature faster and live longer than larger breeds; bigger dogs mature later and generally know shorter spans of adulthood and senior citizenship. That said, every dog develops and ages at her own rate. The following is a rough breakdown of the stages of canine life:

- Puppyhood** ends between six and 18 months of age.
- Adolescence** starts between six and 18 months of age.
- Adulthood** starts between 12 months and three years of age.
- The **senior years** begin between six and 10 years of age.



From dogtime.com



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Dogs and Monkeys Understand Fairness

A 2008 study of dogs showed that they not only understand the concept of fairness, but will also become jealous and act out against inequity.

The study, in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, examined the reactions of dogs asked to perform the same tricks as other dogs, but receiving unequal rewards.

University of Vienna researchers did a series of experiments with dogs who knew how to "give the paw" or "shake". The dogs were happy to give their paws when asked, whether or not they received a reward. Then, the researchers began rewarding some of the dogs, but not all. The dogs who did not receive a reward, after seeing that some dogs *did* receive rewards, hesitated significantly longer before giving their paw, and eventually stopped altogether.

In 2003, Emory University Professor de Waal did a study of monkeys. The monkeys had to hand a small rock to the researchers to receive a piece of cucumber in return. The monkeys were

happy to do this. When the researchers changed things up a bit and offered some monkeys cucumber pieces and others grapes (a preferred, more delicious reward), for the same task, the monkeys being offered cucumber pieces and seeing others offered grapes were not happy.

"The one(s) who got cucumber became very agitated," de Waal said, "threw out the food, threw out the rock that we exchanged with them, and at some point just stopped performing."

The dogs in Range's study did not notice subtle distinctions between different types of rewards as the monkeys had, but they showed an understanding of fairness between a reward vs no reward.



Professor de Waal hypothesized that other animals have a sense of fairness as well. Lions hunt cooperatively, for example, and de Waal said he "would predict that lions would be sensitive to who has done what and what do they get for it."