

# Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ



Issue 32: Spring/Summer 2023

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction since 1993



## For Fur-ther Information . . .

Home Programs Furry Angels News Compassion Central Newsletter Tips From The Trenches Caretaker's Corner

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 "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 "Share with Squirrel" 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".
- Look for "Share" buttons throughout our site to share content via Twitter, Facebook, email, and other services.

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## Spring/Summer Reminder: Check Your Yard For Rabbit Nests Before Mowing!

The breeding season for rabbits each year runs from March through September, coinciding with the months of the year when



grass is growing, and therefore, with the months when lawnmowers can be seen and heard all up and down residential streets.

Rabbits make their nests in the ground, commonly in yards and gardens. On the surface, they look like small spots of dead grass, but under that brown grass could be a litter of tiny, vulnerable baby bunnies that could be scared, hurt, or killed by a lawnmower.

*What can you do?*

Before each time that you mow your lawn, take a few minutes to walk the path that you will be tak-



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### Rabbit Nests (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

ing with your mower, looking for these small brown patches. If you find one, carefully peel back the dead grass to see if there is a nest underneath.



If you find baby rabbits, cover the nest up again and leave them alone. Keep pets and children away from the nest as well, and leave about a 10 foot radius around the nest when you mow.

(Don't attempt to move them or play with them, as rabbits are prone to stress and too much stress can be very harmful to them.)

You may not see the mother rabbit near the nest, but that is because mother rabbits visit their nests only one or two times a day. Unless the babies look very thin and underfed, everything is fine and their mom is taking care of them. Within a few weeks, the babies will grow enough to leave the nest.

*What if the babies DO look very thin and underfed, or one or more of them is injured?*

If this occurs, contact your local wildlife rehabilitation center. (To find a center near you, search online with a phrase such as "find local wildlife rehabilitator".

### Bird Feeders in Summer?

Should you take bird feeders down when the weather warms up? That seems to be a common question.

There are some in the birdwatching community who believe that providing

(Continued on page 3)

### Burlington The Cat on Fostering



Hello, Burlington here.

As you know, my human family has been known to foster animals from time to time. In fact, Mom has become known as

somewhat of an expert on this, in her local circle.

That's why someone from our local animal shelter asked her if she would prepare a flyer with tips and advice for others who are considering fostering.

"Where to start?" I heard her mutter to herself, sitting in front of her laptop the other day.

"At the beginning?" was Mallory's guess as she walked in the front door, perfectly on cue.

Mom squealed and jumped out of her seat to throw her arms around Mallory.

"Mom," Mallory whined, "Why do you do that every time I come over? It's not like you never see me. I live three miles from you."

Mom laughed. "I'm just not used to you being back in town yet, now that you're out of college."

"Well, prepare yourself, because Matthew said he's coming over today, too. Now, what are you trying to start?" Mallory put her backpack down and followed Mom back to the couch and sat beside her.

Before Mom could answer, the door opened again and, you guessed it, Matthew walked in. Dad followed behind and said, "Can you believe it? Both of our grown-up kids are here at the same time."

"This is great!" Mom got up and gave Matthew a hug. "You can all help me with my flyer for the shelter. But first, dinner."

She went to the kitchen and perused the contents of the

fridge and cabinets before doing that magical thing she does where she whips up a scrumptious-smelling meal that is enough to feed whatever number of people happen to be at our house. Before everyone gathered at the table, Mallory filled Jersey's and my food bowls and gave us scratches until I couldn't help but purr while I started to eat.

Everyone passed the dishes around the table and filled their plates, and finally Matthew asked Mom, "What kind of flyer do you have to make?"

"It's a flyer to provide information to folks who may be considering fostering."

Dad took a drink of his iced tea and asked, "Information like where to sign up to foster?"

"That, and some tips and advice about the process."

In between bites, Mallory made a suggestion. "I'd probably start by saying that people should research their local shelters and rescue organizations to find the one that is the best fit for them."



"Good idea." Mom got up and dug a tablet and pen out of the drawer in the kitchen and started to make notes as soon as she sat back down.



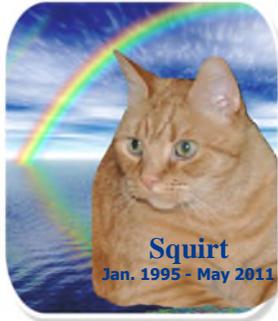
To learn about links for additional reading on topics mentioned in Burlington Reports, see "For Fur-Ther Information" on page one!

(Continued on page 6)



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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 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.*

**Question:** Can pets have seasonal allergies?

**Answer:** They sure can! Just as people can be allergic to household products, chemicals, fabrics, foods, and plants that bloom or pollinate at certain times of the year, your pets can be allergic to those things as well. Not only that, but do you know a human who is allergic to cats or dogs? Well, believe it or not, there are cats and dogs that are allergic to humans! Check out the Squirty's Words column from the [August 2013 issue fo Burlington Reports](#). (Can you believe that was almost ten years ago?)



## Bird Feeders (Continued)

*(Continued from page 2)*

bird feeders in the warmer months will make birds lazy and they will stop looking for natural food sources. This is a myth, however, as studies have found that birds receive only a quarter or less of their daily nutrition from feeders.



*Please do note, however, that if you live in an area where there are bears or other wild predators, you may opt to take down your bird feeders in spring and summer so as not to attract them into your yard.*

While it's very important for birds to have access to feeders in the fall and winter to fulfill their nutritional needs as they prepare for migration (and there is more likelihood of a shortage of natural food due to seasonal changes), there are also many benefits of feeding birds in the spring and summer, such as:

- You will have the chance to see a greater variety of birds in the warmer months than you can see in the colder months.
- It is easier to identify types of birds by their markings and colors because spring brings about their breeding plumage, bringing out their visual brilliance while they are trying to attract mates.
- Birds raise their young during the warm months, and feeding them in your yard gives you a chance to watch their babies mature.

Some tips for safe and successful bird feeding in spring and summer:

- Keep seed dry - Humidity and heat can cause mold to grow in seed, which can be very harmful to birds.
- Keep feeders clean - Take feeders apart regularly (once or twice a month) and clean thoroughly with soap and boiling water (or a 1 part bleach to 9 parts water solution),

**Question:** Why do my cat and dog get the zoomies?

**Answer:** Ah, yes, the zoomies.

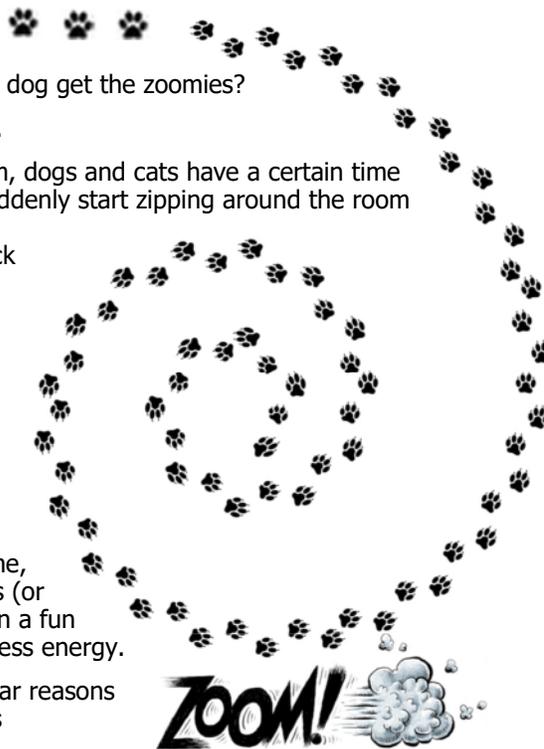
As every pet parent can confirm, dogs and cats have a certain time (or times) of day when they suddenly start zipping around the room (or often multiple rooms), running back and forth and back and forth, spinning in circles or running laps with lots of sharp turns or sudden direction-changes, looking comically as if they've lost their minds.

Most of the time, zoomies last only a few minutes and they are normal behavior for cats and dogs.

Also known by their longer name, frenetic random activity periods (or FRAPS), zoomies are most often a fun (and funny) way to release excess energy.

Some zoomies happen for similar reasons for both cats and dogs, such as

- Relieving pent-up energy
- Hunting instinct
- Post-poop bliss (yes, that's a thing!)



*(Continued on page 7)*

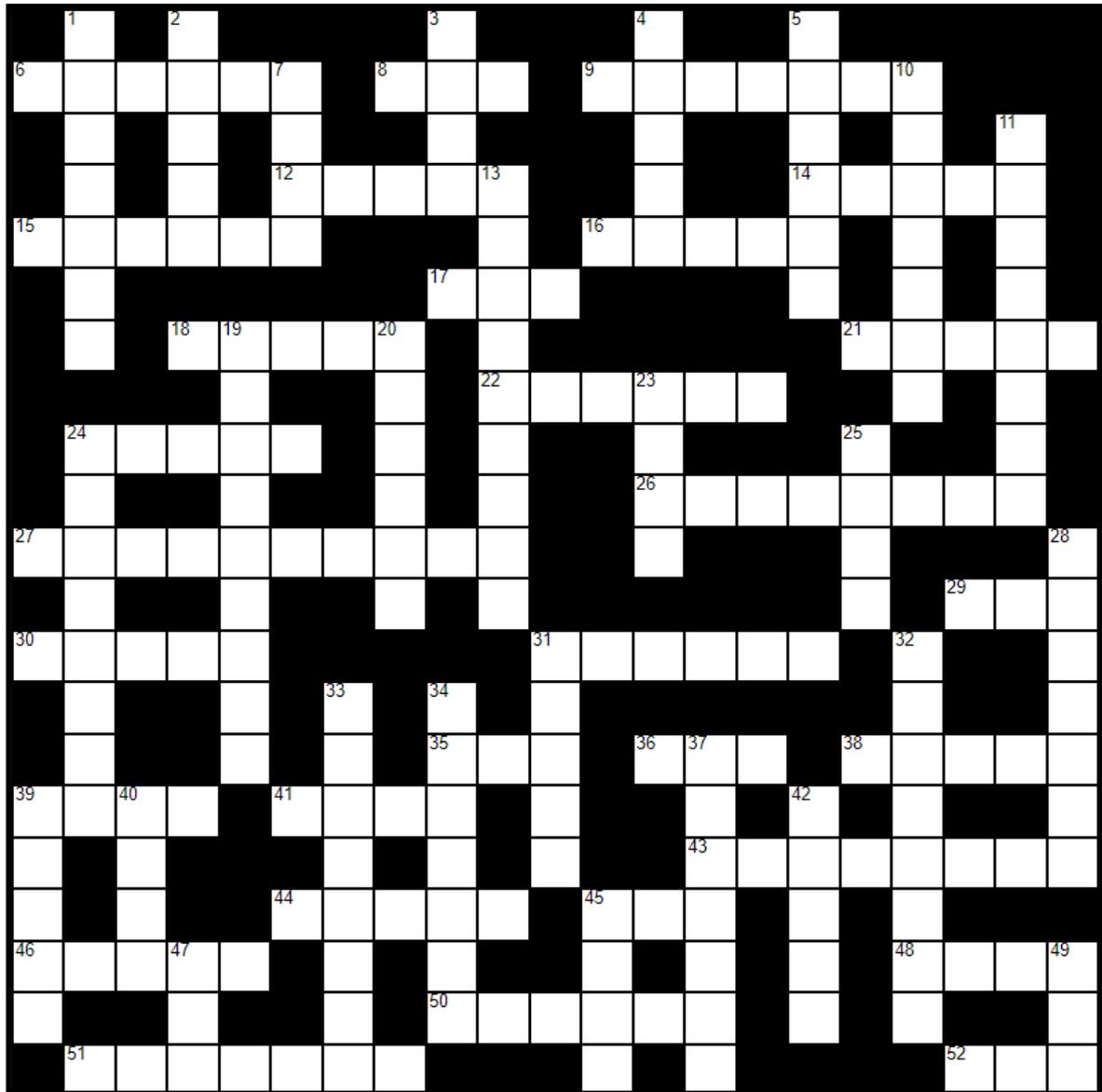
*(Continued on page 6)*



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**Crossword Puzzle: Fascinating Animal Facts**

This issue's crossword puzzle contains 56 fascinating facts about animals. (Can you spot the clue that gives you the answer to another clue?) Visit our web site to see the completed puzzle or to solve the puzzle online.



**CLUES**

**ACROSS:**

**6:** Blue-eyed \_\_\_ are one of two (non-human) primates to have truly blue eyes.

**8:** The sentence "The quick

brown fox jumps over a lazy \_\_\_." uses every letter of the alphabet.

**9:** Male \_\_\_ are called "bucks" and females are "does."

**12:** Pear and \_\_\_ seeds contain arsenic, which may be deadly to

dogs.

**14:** We share 98.4% of our DNA with a \_\_\_.

**15:** There is a butterfly in Africa with enough \_\_\_ in its body to kill six cats!

*(Continued on page 5)*



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(Puzzle Clues, Continued from page 4)

- 16:** A group of \_\_\_s is called a Convocation.
- 17:** Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds, while dogs only have about \_\_\_.
- 18:** The second-best sense of smell in the dog world belongs to the Basset \_\_\_.
- 21:** A chicken with red ear lobes will produce \_\_\_ eggs, and a chicken with white ear lobes will produce white eggs.
- 22:** Baby \_\_\_ can walk and run after just a few hours of being born.
- 24:** Whale milk is \_\_\_ percent fat.
- 26:** Geometer moths are named for the way their caterpillars walk. Geometrid means "earth measurer" and the caterpillars are fondly nicknamed "\_\_\_s", "loopers", and the word in 11 Down because of their gait.
- 27:** A group of owls is called a \_\_\_.
- 29:** The \_\_\_ is the only mammal that can fly.
- 30:** The Strawberry \_\_\_ looks like a strawberry in a bird's shape. The sound of this bird's song has been compared to a flute.
- 31:** Elephants don't drink through their \_\_\_ like a straw.
- 35:** A short nickname for an Australian animal that hops (see 36 Across)
- 36:** If you lift a kangaroo's tail off the ground it can't \_\_\_\_. They use their tails for balance.
- 38:** A baby \_\_\_ is called a "cria" which is Spanish for baby.
- 39:** A \_\_\_ has no stomach.
- 41:** A housefly \_\_\_ in the key of F.
- 43:** The \_\_\_ is the only animal capable of turning its stomach inside-out.
- 44:** In Croatia, scientists discovered that lampposts were falling down because a chemical in the \_\_\_ of male dogs was rotting the metal.
- 45:** 79% of \_\_\_ owners sleep with them.
- 46:** In the Caribbean there are oysters that can climb \_\_\_.
- 48:** Two new studies have demonstrated the ability of Egyptian fruit bats and mice to \_\_\_ their brain waves during social interactions.
- 50:** Sharks are immune to \_\_\_!
- 51:** \_\_\_s can catch human colds and other illnesses.
- 52:** A \_\_\_ can sleep standing up, but can only dream lying down.
- DOWN:**
- 1:** The male is a peacock and the female is a peahen, but both are \_\_\_.
- 2:** Ants never sleep. Also they don't have \_\_\_.
- 3:** A \_\_\_ (see 22 Across) is born without an immune system.
- 4:** The animal on the Firefox logo is not a fox, but a red \_\_\_.
- 5:** Fireflies do not bite or have \_\_\_s. Fireflies are harmless, they don't even carry diseases.
- 7:** The \_\_\_ has over 25,000 feathers on its body.
- 10:** There is an average of 50,000 \_\_\_ per acre in green areas.
- 11:** Despite being called a Maple \_\_\_\_, this caterpillar's varied diet includes much of what grows in Wisconsin's deciduous woods and wetlands – alder, ash, basswood, elm, hickory, birch, beech, poplar, willow, holly, and oak – and maple.
- 13:** The only mammals to undergo menopause are \_\_\_\_, humpback whales and human females.
- 19:** \_\_\_ can run faster than horses, and the males can roar like lions.
- 20:** The placement of the eyes of a \_\_\_ enables them to see all four of their legs at all times.
- 23:** Tigers have striped \_\_\_ as well as their fur.
- 24:** The \_\_\_ can only eat when its head is upside down.
- 25:** Tuna fish can \_\_\_ 40 miles in a single day.
- 28:** Cows have one large \_\_\_ that is divided into four compartments to go through the different stages of digestion.
- 31:** A single elephant \_\_\_ can weigh as much as 9 pounds.
- 32:** If you keep a \_\_\_ in a dark room, it will become pale!
- 33:** A \_\_\_ cannot see the color red.
- 34:** Pear and apple seeds contain \_\_\_\_, which may be deadly to dogs.
- 37:** \_\_\_ can change from one sex to another and back again.
- 39:** An anteater is nearly 6 feet long, yet its \_\_\_ is only an inch wide.
- 40:** Dog whelks are a type of sea snail found in \_\_\_ pools.
- 42:** An elephant can smell \_\_\_ up to 3 miles away.
- 45:** A group of dogs is called a \_\_\_.
- 47:** A cat has 32 muscles in each \_\_\_.
- 49:** The sound a crow makes is a \_\_\_.



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### Bird Feeders (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

allowing to dry completely before adding new seed. (Any moisture left in the feeder can contribute to new mold or bacterial growth.)

- Keep feeders in a shaded area - This will help to minimize spoiled seed and provide a more comfortable environment for the birds.
- Provide clean water - If using a birdbath, keep the depth to no more than 3 inches at its deepest. Clean two to three times per week to help prevent bacterial growth and to avoid inviting mosquitoes to lay their eggs in the birdbath.
- Skip suet during hot months - Even though some brands of suet are no-melt, it is still possible that it can spoil, or the sun can soften the suet and it can harm a bird's feathers in high heat.
- Use anti-reflective techniques to help prevent birds from flying into your windows - this can be in the form of decals, sun catchers, or wind socks placed in front of windows.

### Birthday Celebrations for Pets?



Do you celebrate your pet's birthday? A 2011 survey by Kelton Research (as mentioned in a *Psychology Today* article) concluded that 81% of pet owners (more commonly known as pet parents) know their pets' birthday and 77% have bought their pet a present to celebrate.

A 2006 survey of 260,000 pet owners found that 58% of them have hosted a birthday party for their pet.

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### Burlington The Cat (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)

"Maybe they could talk to other people in the area who foster, to get their input on the various organizations?" Matthew added.

Mom nodded and spoke while she wrote: "And I'm adding 'Start small'. Short term fostering, and fostering just one animal at a time is a good way to keep from becoming overwhelmed while getting used to the process."

Mallory had another suggestion. "Prepare ahead of time by making sure you have all the necessities, like good quality food, bowls, bedding, toys, litter and a litterbox for a cat or a collar and leash for a dog."

"What about preparing your home, also," Dad said, "To make it ready for whatever you will need to do, like housetraining, incorporating a foster pet into your home along with your own pets, and providing a safe environment by keeping all cleaning supplies and medications and other dangerous things out of reach?"



Mallory expanded on what Dad had said about homes that already have pets by mentioning the way Mom always keeps foster pets in a separate part of the house with their own food and water bowls, beds, and other essentials, then introduces them to us slowly, beginning by allowing us to sniff under the door and eventually advancing to the point where we actually see one another for the first time.

Mom often remarks about how laid-back Jersey and I are, and how we adjust to different animals fairly easily, but it's not so easy for

every pet, and socialization is most successful when it happens gradually and at the pace of the particular animals involved.



"And even if the person doesn't have other pets, the foster pet will feel more secure if they have a special space that is theirs," Mom said as she wrote.

The suggestions kept coming and Mom kept writing:

"Try to arrange to meet the animal first, to make sure you're a good fit for them and their needs."

"Make sure the whole family is on board and children know how to interact with animals of all types, sizes, and ages."

"And small children should be supervised by an adult."

"Prepare yourself for the fact that saying goodbye is hard, when the pet goes on to their new home."

"And there is no shame in being a 'foster failure' by adopting the pet if you fall in love with them."

That suggestion brought applause all around.

Jersey and I listened, happy and content, enjoying seeing our family all together for the evening, working together on something near and dear to all of them: helping animals.



Burlington is a fictional gray/silver tabby cat belonging 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 (now adult) children are Mallory and Matthew. The family also adopted a Chihuahua and named her Jersey. See our web site, [pacsnj.org](http://pacsnj.org), for other issues of Burlington Reports and to read the ongoing adventures and learning experiences of Burlington and his family!



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### Squirty's Words (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

- Acute Pain (less common) - If your cat or dog has fleas, itchy skin, or pain, they may run around in an attempt to escape the feeling. Keep your eye out for any other signs of pain or discomfort and reach out to your vet if you have reason to believe that something may be wrong.

Some reasons for zoomies can be slightly different for dogs and for cats. For example:

Dog FRAPS may also be due to

- Excitement and happiness (such as when their person comes home, they see another dog, or they are just suddenly happy - after all, there doesn't have to be a reason for sudden happiness, right?)
- A need to warm up - Revving up the heart rate is a good way to increase blood flow and body temperature. Your dog may do this after a bath or a swim or after playing in the snow.



Cat FRAPS may also be due to

- Boredom
- Feline Hyperthyroidism - Common in middle aged and senior cats, an overactive thyroid can cause hyperactivity as well as weight loss, increased appetite, increased thirst, excessive urination, vomiting, and diarrhea. If you see any of these symptoms in your cat's behavior, a trip to the vet is in order.
- Dementia and cognitive decline in senior cats - Senior cats may suffer from changes in cognitive function, sight, hearing, and sense of smell, and their startle response may become more apparent. If your older cat is having more frequent zoomies, especially if this is a new behavior for your cat, have her checked out by your veterinarian.
- Stress and anxiety, irritation or aggression - If you notice this in a multi-cat household, especially in addition to other behavior changes such as cats having accidents outside the litter box, there may be an issue of disharmony between the cats in the home.



What is the one thing NOT to do when your cat has the zoomies?

A cat with zoomies is in a highly aroused state, which means that any physical interaction introduced by you is liable to end up in an attack on your hands or feet. It may feel like play to your cat in that wound-up state, but isn't fun for people.

Wait at least 10 to 15 minutes after an episode of zoomies before attempting to pet, pick up, or cuddle your kitty.

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

### Birthday (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

Do you have a date that you celebrate each year with your pet? It may be their actual birthday, if you know it, or a date that you have chosen to celebrate as their birthday based on what you knew of their age when you became their pet parent, or it may be the date that you adopted them, also known as their "gotcha date".

If you do celebrate a specific date with your pet(s), how do you mark the occasion? Do you throw a party? Buy them gifts?

One fun way to commemorate that special date is to buy or make your pet a birthday cake!

*A what?, you may ask, Everyone knows that baked goods are not good for cats and dogs!*

Yes, that is true. Many ingredients in baked goods can be toxic to cats and/or dogs. Chocolate, grapes and their dried products (raisins, sultans, currants), Xylitol, macadamia nuts, milk, the yeast and sugar in bread dough, and salt, for example, should all be avoided in foods that you feed to your cat or dog, in addition to any sort of raw dough or anything containing raw eggs.

*But there are safe birthday cakes for your pet!*

More and more pet supply retailers and pet-treat bakeries are offering birthday cakes specifically made for our fur babies, and there are even cake mixes for dogs!



Of course, you can also find recipes to make your own pet birthday cake.

See the "Links for Further Reading" section of our web site and look for the Links post relating to this issue (Spring/Summer 2023, Issue XXXII) for links to several recipes!



Paws and Claws  
Society, Inc.

## Paws and Claws Society, Inc.

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

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Burlington Reports Issue 32: Spring/Summer 2023

## April is National Pet First Aid Awareness Month

National Pet First Aid Awareness Month is a perfect time to make a pet first aid kit, take pet first aid courses, make a plan for what to do in the event a pet health emergency arises, and share info with others!

Of course, the best course of action if your pet is injured or sick is to make a trip to your vet. But what do you do if you and your pet are far from home, or you cannot contact the vet for some reason?

That's where a stocked first aid kit and training in wound care, CPR, and the Heimlich maneuver for animals comes in. You can ask your veterinarian for information on how and where to obtain this training, as well as advice on prevention.

What types of items should go into a pet first aid kit?

- Phone number, clinic name, address of your veterinarian as well as local veterinary emergency clinics.
- Phone numbers for local poison control in the area where you live or will be visiting with your pet(s)
- Absorbent gauze pads

- Adhesive tape
- Cotton balls or swabs
- Disposable gloves
- Scissors with blunt end
- Tweezers
- OTC antibiotic ointment
- Oral syringe or turkey baster
- Liquid dishwashing detergent (for bathing)
- Towel
- Small flashlight
- Alcohol wipes
- Styptic powder
- Saline eye solution

Your veterinarian may have additional suggestions for items not on this list.

