



Mews & News

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Riverside Cat Hospital |



We hope that you find these newsletters informative and entertaining. However, if you do not wish to receive these quarterly mailings, simply click on the "unsubscribe" button at the top of this e-mail. We promise that we will never share your contact information with anyone, and will only use your e-mail address to send you these quarterly newsletters, or to contact you about your pet.

As always, we welcome your feedback. If you have suggestions for how we can improve our newsletter, please call or e-mail us. We'd be happy to hear from you!

Chronic vomiting

Could it be more than just hairballs?

Does your cat vomit occasionally? Do you find hairballs on the floor every month? Does your cat like to wake you up in the middle of the night with "that noise"? "That noise" means that you'd better watch where you step when you get out of bed! If so, you are not alone. Chronic, occasional vomiting is a very common problem. So common, in fact, that many cat owners mistakenly believe that it is normal for their cat to throw up from time to time.



Chronic vomiting is not normal for cats.

It is a sign that something is not right inside. Listen to your cat! He is trying to tell you something. Chronic vomiting, even as infrequently as once a month, is indicative of a problem with your cat's gastrointestinal tract, liver, or pancreas.

The most common cause of chronic vomiting is inappropriate diet.

We see this particularly in cats that are fed a dry, high-carbohydrate food. Often a simple change to a canned, low-carbohydrate food will help to reduce or eliminate the frequency of vomiting. Other cats can actually be allergic to their food, and will respond favorably to a hypoallergenic diet.



Vomiting can be associated with many common metabolic or endocrine diseases, like hyperthyroidism or kidney disease. Simple blood testing can help to determine whether all your cat's organs are functioning properly. Simple treatments are available for many of these diseases.

Inflammatory bowel disease, chronic liver inflammation, or chronic pancreatitis are 3 common, often connected disease syndromes that frequently cause vomiting. If the veterinarian suspects that your cat may

have one of these conditions, she may recommend blood tests or imaging tests (like x-rays) to help establish a diagnosis. Medications or special foods may be prescribed to help control symptoms.

The bottom line: It is not normal for cats to vomit. Even if your cat has a great appetite, is acting fine, and only throws up a hairball every few weeks, it is wise to let your veterinarian know. Acting to control the problem now can help to prevent worsening disease in the months and years to come. Please call or schedule an appointment for an evaluation!

Newsletter Trivia

Summer 2010

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The Last Word



Click the link below to take our survey - how many cats do you have and what is the "right" number of cats to have??

[How many cats??](#)

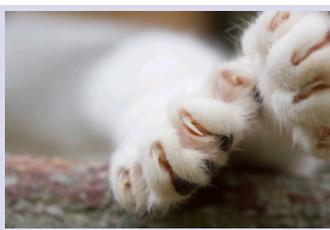


In Memoriam...

In honor of those pets that have died in the past 3 months...

Harlo F.





Our last newsletter asked "What is special about a Polydactyl cat?" Many of you knew that a polydactyl cat is a cat with extra toes. Cats usually have 5 toes on each front foot, and 4 toes on each rear foot. A few readers also pointed out that Ernest Hemingway loved polydactyl cats, and owned several at his home in Key West, Florida. Many cats living there today are descendents of these pets and have extra toes.



Congratulations to our winners Jack and Leo! Their owner, Lee Underwood, answered our trivia question correctly. She won a dental goody package, including Hill's t/d dental diet, greenies treats, and a toothbrush and toothpaste. Thanks to all who participated!

This month's question:

What breed am I?



These cat breeds have very short, soft, wavy or curly hair and short, wiry, curly whiskers. They have very long ears and long, pointed noses.

The winner of this month's contest will win a delux cat grass planter for a lucky cat to enjoy fresh cat grass all year long!

Entries may be submitted by [e-mail](#), phone, fax, or snail mail. Be sure to include your name and phone number along with your answer! Please see our contact information at the bottom of this newsletter. Entries must be received by June 1st, 2010. If more than 1 correct answer is received, the winner will be chosen at random from among the correct submissions.

Ask Izzy



Dear Izzy,
My mom wants to make me a birthday cake. I really like cake, especially the icing. Is this ok for me to eat?
Signed, Pluto

Dear Pluto,
Lucky kitty, to get cake for your birthday! Make sure your mom avoids any chocolate ingredients or artificial sweeteners, and don't overindulge (you could get an upset stomach). Other than that, I say "Let cats eat cake!"
Signed,

Izzy

[Send Izzy your question](#) today!



Mystery M.



Sil S.



Summer Open House

Mark your calendar for our summer open house on **Saturday, June 19th from 10am to 4pm**, held in conjunction with the 2nd Annual [Celebrate Downtown Okemos Art Walk](#). More details coming soon!

Staff Pet Spotlight



Mouse

Mouse is a 6 month old female domestic short hair cat who came to live with Dr. Lewis's family on Christmas Day, 2009.



Settling quickly into the household, Mouse (formally named Miss Mouse) quickly made it known to all that she loves petting, sitting on laps, running after toys, and treat time. She is a smart kitty and has learned how to "sit" for her treats! Mouse was adopted from the Ingham County Animal Shelter in Mason.



Are happy with the service you receive at

The Last Word



June is National Adopt-A-Cat Month. Visit your local shelter today! The [Ingham County Animal Shelter](#) and the [Capital Area Humane Society](#) are the largest shelters in the Lansing area, but there are many other smaller rescue groups operating as well. You can find links to several of these groups at our [website](#). Even if you are not in a position to adopt, shelters are in need of foster homes and donations of money and supplies. Please take a moment to think about how you can help.

Until next time,
Kerry Lewis, DVM



our clinic?

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and let us know how
we're doing!