



## 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!*

### Holiday Tips for Your Cat

With the holiday season fast approaching, take a few minutes to review these safety guidelines for your pets before you put up those decorations or wrap your presents!



**Holiday decorations:**  
Decorative items such as tinsel, small ornaments, and ornament hooks should be put away, or hung well out of reach of your cat. These items can cause serious problems if swallowed, and the glitter and shine can make them very attractive toys for cats!

### Holiday plants:

Most people know that poinsettia is not good for cats to eat, but a more serious toxic plant is mistletoe. Since cats can be very good at reaching things they want to nibble, the safest option is to not keep live plants in the house at all.



### The Christmas Tree:

Even the sturdiest of tree stands may not prevent an accident if your cat climbs the tree. Be sure your tree is anchored firmly, and do not allow your cat to drink the water from the stand.

### Gift Wrapping:

## Winter 2010

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A cat has nine lives. For three he plays, for three he strays, and for the last three he stays. - **English Proverb**

"After dark all cats are leopards." - **Native American Proverb**

The dog may be wonderful prose, but only the cat is poetry. - **French Proverb**



### Memoriam...

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



Many cats find shiny and curly ribbons irresistible! But, if swallowed, these can be dangerous play things. Keep all wrapping supplies out of reach of your cat.

### Food and Sweets:

With all the baking and cooking that goes on around the Holidays, take extra care to be sure your cat does not get into anything other than his or her own food! Items to be particularly careful with are foods containing onions, chocolate, or artificial sweeteners.

Taking a little extra care in your holiday preparations will help ensure that everyone has a joyous time!

### Ask Izzy



Dear Izzy,  
My cat, an orange tabby named Butterscotch, is developing dark spots on his nose and mouth. They don't seem to bother him, but I am worried. Are these spots cancerous?

Signed, Worried

Dear Worried,

Don't be worried. The spots you are describing are probably what are called lentiginos. They are like freckles, and are a harmless, unique characteristic of orange cats. They are typically flat, dark brown to black spots that develop on the nose, lips and even eyelids. They usually start to show up around 3-4 years of age, and start out as tiny spots, like freckles. As your cat ages, the spots will grow larger and more numerous.

These spots should not bother your cat in any way. If you have any concern about the appearance of the spots or how they are changing or growing, you should have them checked out by your veterinarian.

Sincerely,

Izzy

[Send Izzy your question](#) today!

PS. I would like to let everyone know that I had no part in the production of the Thanksgiving e-mail sent out recently to our clients. If I had known that I would be forced to wear a pilgrim costume, I never would have agreed to pose for the picture!

### The Last Word



Welcome winter! I hope you all enjoyed the large fluffy flakes of snow that have been floating down from the skies all day today. Christmas is coming in just a few weeks, and we are looking forward to opening our doors to welcome all our boarding friends. If you need to board your cat over the holidays, call soon, as there are only a couple of spaces left!

Many of us give to charities and food banks during the holiday season. Remember that many families in need also have pets in need. The [Greater Lansing Food Bank](#) accepts donations of pet food (unopened, unexpired food only). The [Ingham County Animal Shelter](#) is also happy to accept donations of pet food, toys, bedding, or other pet-related items. Remember our furry friends in need this winter!

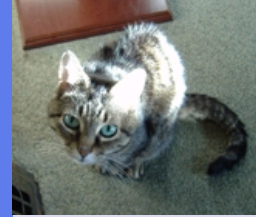
Until next time,

Kerry Lewis, DVM

Adam L.  
Clawed L.  
Ellie C.  
Elsie I.  
Gabby T.  
Kiki G.  
Lionel B.  
Lulu G.  
Orville B.  
Ramona P.  
Shelly W.  
Smokey C.

### Staff Pet Spotlight

Sidney



with Dr. Lewis' family. She is the oldest cat in the family, and prefers to spend most of her time curled up near a heat vent or purring quietly on one of the kids' laps. In the summertime, she still enjoys getting outdoors to chase birds and relax in the sunshine.

Are happy with the service you receive at our clinic?

[Write a Review](#) and let us know how we're doing!