



Mews & News



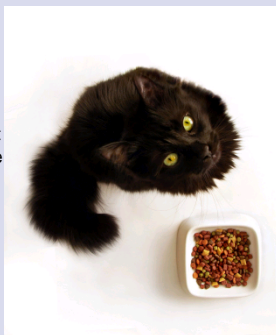
Celebrating 5 years!

This September marks our 5th year of business here in Okemos! Thank you to all of the clients and patients who have supported us. We have had the privilege to work with some truly wonderful and special people (and pets!), some of whom have become like family to all of us here. The Okemos area is full of people who really care about the well-being of animals. We look forward to working with all of you and your feline friends for many years to come!

Thank you!

How to Feed Your Cat

One of the most common questions that we are asked here is "What should I be feeding my cat?". Nutrition issues arise on a daily basis. Yet, pet owners are not usually equipped with the necessary information to make the right nutrition decisions for their pets. We are flooded with marketing propaganda, television commercials, and flashy packaging, none of which contain any really useful information about the food at all. It is very difficult to objectively evaluate manufacturers' claims regarding the health benefits of their foods. To confuse matters even more, we are further restricted by our pets' dietary preferences —the best food in the world will do no good for your cat if he won't eat it! The good news in all of this is that there are places you can go for reliable nutrition advice and information. Let's start with your veterinarian.



In general, there are two main types of foods available for cats: canned and dry. Some people choose to feed raw foods, but we do not recommend this practice because of health concerns associated with handling and feeding raw meat.

In the past, it was commonly thought that dry food was preferred because it was better for cats' teeth. However, scientific studies have not proven this to be the case. In fact, many veterinarians now believe that canned diets may actually be healthier for many cats. Cats in the wild developed as carnivores, meaning that their bodies developed to digest protein efficiently. Canned foods generally have much higher protein and lower carbohydrate contents than dry foods. This may be one of the reasons why many of our dry-fed house cats are overweight. In addition to the high protein/ low carb benefit of canned foods, they also contain a much higher percentage of water, a good thing for our older cats, and many of our cats that live with kidney disease. That said, many of our feline friends love their crunchy kibble, and prefer dry food, and that can be ok for them too!



OK, we've discussed the canned vs. dry debate. Now, what brand to feed? Well, there's no easy answer to that question. Each cat is an individual, and each cat will respond differently to different foods. If your cat eats well, has a healthy body weight, a smooth, soft hair coat, and is free of vomiting or diarrhea, the food you are feeding is probably just fine. In general, try to feed the highest quality food that you can afford, as there are differences in the quality of ingredients used by different companies. Whatever food you decide to feed your cats, make sure that you are feeding a proper amount. For most cats, that means no more leaving out a full bowl for your cat to graze at leisure! A good rule of thumb for an average 10-12lb. cat is 1/2 cup of dry food, total, per day; or one 5.5oz. or

Fall 2011

In this issue:

5 year anniversary

Feeding your Cat

In Memoriam

Ask Izzy

The Last Word



We are taking reservations for boarding this fall. It's not too soon to start thinking about your travel plans for Thanksgiving, and our holiday schedules do fill up early. Make your plans now to ensure a reserved spot for your cat!

Did you know that we offer comprehensive Wellness Packages for your cat?

These packages include all of the necessary preventive medicine recommendations needed to keep your cat healthy and strong! Packages are available for kittens, adults, and senior cats. Pet owners who purchase a Wellness Package for their cat will also receive a 25% discount on any other exam fees during the year, as well as free unlimited nail trims for their cat!



two 3oz. cans per day. If you are unsure, we can help to determine whether your cat is underweight, overweight, or just right, and recommend an individual feeding plan just for him. Just ask us!



Adopting a shelter cat or kitten

If you are looking to add a new cat to your household, a local shelter or Humane Society is a good place to start. At most shelters, you can find cats and kittens in all sizes, ages, colors, and temperments. There are a few things to keep in mind, however, to ensure that you get the right cat for your household.

To ensure that your chosen cat is healthy, check for the following:

- The eyes and nose should be free of discharge and crusting. The cat's breathing should sound clear, not congested. Watch for sneezing or coughing.
- Check the cat's ears for redness, discharge, and itching.
- The cat's haircoat should be clean. Cats who are sick are often not grooming themselves. Scabs or patches of hair loss can be signs of external parasites.
- If possible, examine the cat's litter box for signs of diarrhea.

You will need to take temperament into account as well, especially if you already have other cats at home. Consider these points:

- Age - Often a young kitten will be accepted into the household more readily than an adult cat.
- Is the new cat very playful or active? If you have an senior cat at home, or if you are looking for a quieter pet, then a rambunctious kitten may not be the best choice.
- If possible, adopt the cat on a trial basis for a week or two to be sure that he fits into your household before you make a permanent commitment.

Once you have chosen the cat who is right for you, take the following steps to ensure a smooth transition:

- If possible, arrange for a visit to the vet on the way home from the shelter. Otherwise, keep the new cat confined in a room of his own until you've had him checked out. This will prevent him from spreading any parasites or other infections to other pets, or from contaminating the house with fleas, ringworm, or other parasites.
- The veterinarian will check your new cat over thoroughly. Often, cats adopted from shelters will have upper respiratory infections or skin or intestinal parasites. These problems are usually easily addressed.
- Bring any paperwork that the shelter may have given you to the vet visit. Most cats will need vaccine boosters or other follow-up preventive care soon after adoption.
- Once your new cat has arrived home, keep him in a separate room of his own for several days to allow him time to get acclimated to his new surroundings. Then, you can slowly introduce him to your other pets. This slow introduction will be easier on them too.
- If you are going to feed a food that is different from what your cat was eating at the shelter, expect that there may be some soft stool or diarrhea for a week or two while you make the transition. Be sure to have your veterinarian check a stool sample to ensure there are no parasites.

For more tips on introducing a new cat into your household, check out the following links from Veterinary Partner:

- [Two cats in one home is fine](#)
- [Slowly is the word..](#)
- [Cat introductions best handled with patience](#)

Ask Izzy



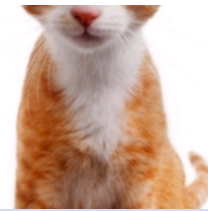
Izzy would like to let everyone know about a fun upcoming event. [Cider & Kittens](#) is a fundraiser for The Kitten Nursery in Williamston. The Kitten Nursery is an organization that works to keep young kittens and nursing mothers out of shelters and get them into permanent homes. The event will be held at the Black

Barn Brewery on Haslett Rd. Saturday, October 8th from 6-10pm. Along with food and friends, there will be a silent auction to benefit the nursery. Check out the Facebook link above or check out the flyer in our clinic for more information.

Izzy

[Send Izzy your question](#) today!

The Last Word



Memoriam...

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

Arjuna L.
B. C. M.
Chuck T.
Costello W.
Doc J.
Happicat O.
Imogene G.
Janie H.
Moonshadow O.
Pather
Robbie S.
Rosie H.
Will E.

Find us on Facebook!

Riverside Cat Hospital |



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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!

I'd like to take some time to personally thank every one of you who has brought your cat in to see us in these past 5 years. We have gotten to know some really great pet owners, and it has been a pleasure working here in Okemos. Our best clients come from referrals, so if you have a friend or family member with a cat, please let them know about us! Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your furry companions. We look forward to 5 more years, and many more to follow!

Until next time,

Kerry Lewis, DVM

Are happy with the service you receive at our clinic?

[Write a Review](#)

and let us know how we're doing!