

C I V I C F E L I N E C L I N I C



JANUARY/FEBRUARY MEWS 2012



Did you Know?

February is Dental Health Month!

- Cats have 30 teeth with carnivore structure (sharp and shearing for meat).
- Oral health is important at all life stages. Oral exam is performed at every visit but you should be looking too!
- Call us for appointment if you see gingivitis, plaque, broken teeth, or detect malodorous breath.



Toxicosis

what not to give your cat! by Dr. Thompson

Cats are finicky but curiosity or human error may kill the cat! The cat has unique ways to metabolize drugs in the liver. Many xenobiotics that dogs and humans can take are toxic to felines. The biological process of drug metabolism is called *glucuronidation* and cats have a limited ability for this liver function. Here is the short list of **BAD for the kitty substances**. All are medical emergencies. *Call for advice before giving anything to your cat!*

1. **Acetaminophen** (Tylenol): Severe liver damage and methemoglobin (inability for RBCs to carry oxygen). Benzocaine has a similar toxicity. Never give to the Kitty!

2. **Lily Poisoning**: Easter Lilies, Tiger lilies, Asiatic Hybrids, and Daylilies are deadly to cats. They are highly nephrotoxic and cause fatal kidney necrosis. Early signs include vomiting, salivating, abdominal pain and anorexia followed by increase in water intake, dehydration and renal failure.

3. **Phosphate Enema** Toxicosis: Fleet enemas or any other containing phosphate will drastically alter the electrolyte balance in cats resulting in cerebral dehydration. Lethargy, ataxia, tremors, arrhythmias and seizures develop and are life threatening.

4. **Kaopectate** (contains salicylate: aspirin) exceeds the safe dose of aspirin in the cat. Vomiting, melena, gut pain and gastric ulceration are resulting symptoms. (low dose aspirin is used but call 1st)

5. **Meloxicam**: only approved for one time dosing in cats. Ok for your dog but can cause renal failure in cats.





Feeding the Elderly Cat.

As they age Cats have different metabolic and physiological changes than humans or dogs. *Older cats have an increased need for calories and energy dense foods.* This is partly due to progressive compromise in fat and protein digestion. To prevent the increased loss of lean body mass it is important to feed an energy dense, highly digestible diet with higher protein levels to the healthy older cat. (Cats with kidney disease may benefit from lower protein levels and higher fat.). Strong evidence is emerging that a diet supplemented with antioxidants, fatty acids, and a prebiotic source improves longevity and provides health benefits to aging cats. *We have several senior diets that contain supplements and have products you can add to your cats diet. Please ask at your Seniors wellness exam!*

Effect of Canned vs Dry Food on intake and body weight.

Cats fed only canned diets decreased their energy intake and decreased in body weight. This is a good thing for obese older cats as they reduce the risk of diabetes, heart conditions, constipation, and arthritis. They are also better hydrated which improves kidney function and skin turgor. For the underweight older cat the *addition* of dry food may help with weight gain. A premium brand with high energy density is the best choice such as Royal Canin Mature or HE. Cats generally prefer moist diets unless raised on dry only. We suggest a combination of both wet and dry

Please ask for dietary guidance when your cat has her annual or biannual exam!



Raffle for the Topsy Turvy Fund for Homeless Cats

Our cat loving client **Janet Fox** is a pet portrait artist. She works in water color, charcoal and acrylic. She has offered the winner of our raffle a portrait of their special pet. *Please stop by and buy a ticket for \$2 or 10 for \$15.*

Thanks for helping the kitties find homes.

Drawing held March 1st

OUR HOUSE

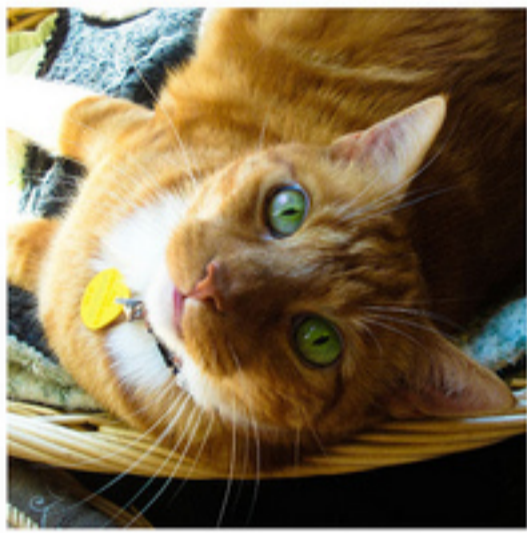


CATS

MOLLY 1998-2011

Molly was adopted from Martinez Animal Shelter in 2003. She was an older, overweight female with an "out" date. We needed a blood donor so we saved her life. She was sweet but did not put up well with blood draws and was soon replaced by Johnny in the line of duty. She lived a life of luxury until her kidney disease and severe arthritis made her quality of life poor.

It is never an easy decision to euthanize but when the time comes for the discussion please don't hesitate to call us. *We are always there for you and your beloved cat!*



Duke



Johnny



Shelby



Earl

Duke has been the Spokes-cat for the Clinic since 2009. He oversees the daily operations and helps write the Mews letter. **Shelby** had life threatening rickets as a kitten and was diagnosed and treated by Dr. Ellis. **Johnny** (type A) and **Reese** (type B) are the active blood donors for the hospital. **Earl** had severe bilateral entropion (eyelid defect) surgically repaired by Dr. Ellis and he would like a real home!



Reese