

## GENERAL INFORMATION

972-496-4126  
www.murphyroadah.com

### HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday	8:00 am . 6:00 pm
Tuesday	8:00 am . 6:00 pm
Wednesday	8:00 am . 6:00 pm
Thursday	8:00 am . 6:00 pm
Friday	8:00 am . 6:00 pm
Saturday	8:00 am . 12 Noon

**BOARDING DROP OFF** . All regular business hours  
**BOARDING PICK UP** . All regular business hours  
Saturday and Sunday at 5:00 pm

**Precious Pups Grooming** 972-496-1636

### ***Lake Ray Hubbard Emergency Pet Care Center***

130 and Broadway in Mesquite  
open 6:00 pm to 7:00 am  
**972-226-3377**

[www.emergencypet.com](http://www.emergencypet.com)

### ***Emergency Animal Clinic***

Pres George Bush Turnpike / 190 just west of Central  
**972-479-9110**

[www.dallasemergencyanimalclinic.com](http://www.dallasemergencyanimalclinic.com)

## MURPHY ROAD ANIMAL HOSPITAL

### MISSION STATEMENT

Our goal is to be an important part of our community through the healthcare we provide for family pets. We believe these important family members contribute significantly to your daily lives and family values. We hope to help our patients thrive through client education, preventative medicine, and compassionate medical and surgical treatment.



## **James R. Moebius, DVM**

Dr. Moebius graduated from Texas A&M in 1990. He opened Murphy Road Animal Hospital in January 1998. He and his wife, Carrolyn, have 3 children and 3 dogs.

### **Member of:**

American Veterinary Medical Association  
Texas Veterinary Medical Association  
Texas Academy of Veterinary Practice  
Board of Directors, Lake Ray Hubbard Emergency Pet Care Center  
Member of the Sachse Chamber of Commerce  
Board of Directors of the Murphy Chamber of Commerce

## **Katherine A. Mathes, DVM**

Dr Mathes graduated from Purdue University and moved to Texas in 1995. She has practiced in several areas including emergency medicine for 5 years. Dr Mathes joined our staff in 2001 as a relief Doctor and is now a full time member of the Murphy Road Animal Hospital team.

### **Member of:**

American Veterinary Medical Association  
American Association of Feline Practitioners  
Veterinary Cancer Society

## **Dr. Shaye D. Hohner**

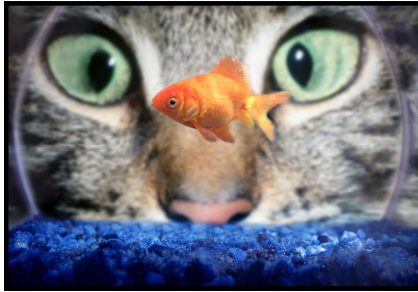
Dr. Hohner was born and raised Oklahoma City. She attended college at Texas A&M University and then returned and attended Oklahoma State College of Veterinary Medicine, graduating in 2004. After working as an environmental chemist for two years, she began practicing veterinary medicine in Oklahoma. Two years later she moved to Ft. Worth, Texas where she has worked until joining our staff March 28, 2011. Dr. Hohner and her husband are expecting their second child in February.

### **Member of:**

American Veterinary Medical Association  
Texas Veterinary Medical Association  
Tarrant County Veterinary Medical Association

## What is Petly?

Petly is a secure, private pet health website that gives you direct access to manage your pet's health 24/7. We're happy to provide Petly free of charge to all clients who have an active email address.



## What can I do with Petly?

- View pet information
- Request appointments
- Receive important medical alerts and clinic news
- Post photos of your pets
- Order prescription refills
- Create and print instructions for pet sitters or kennel staff
- Access reliable information on a wide range of pet health topics
- View vaccination history
- Request email reminders about when to give your pet's medication
- Set up your account for receiving text appointment reminders

## How can I get a Petly account?

It's simple! Just give us your email address and we'll email you an invitation. Follow the instructions in the invitation. We use email to alert clients about important practice and animal health news, such as updates to our services or product recalls.

**Go to [WWW.MURPHYROADAH.COM](http://WWW.MURPHYROADAH.COM) and click on Petly at the bottom of the page**

See your pet on **Petly**

As your pet's personal health page, Petly is a special place for you and your pet. You're just one click away!

**GO TO  
PETLY**

# And Baby Makes . . .

## Adding a baby to the family.

Newsletter of the American Animal Hospital Association

The arrival of a baby is a wonderful and joyous occasion for a family, but there is one member of the household . the family pet . who might need some special attention and understanding to cope with the new addition.

Most pets will need some extra attention when a family introduces a new baby to the order of the home. Dogs in particular may find it confusing and invasive when a new member of the pack enters the scene. A dog socializes in linear packs, which means it considers some family members as dominant to its own position and others as submissive.

Initially, a dog probably sees the new baby in a lower pack order and may display dominant behavior. Watch for signs of aggression such as growling, ears down or laid back over the head, and crouching. Dogs who form deep bonds with their owner may also become depressed and stop eating.

Cats are less social than dogs and may choose to ignore the baby altogether. They do not socialize in packs, so they have little need to show aggression. For them, the most annoying part of living with children is being bothered, although some cats form very close bonds with their owners and may feel rejection. Cats may also stop eating. If you observe aggressive behaviors in your pets, quickly correct them, but do not punish. Serious or lingering behavior problems should always be discussed with your veterinarian.

Before bringing baby home from the hospital, expectant parents should allow their family pets to go into the baby's room and investigate the crib and other new furniture. If there are baby powders or other smells that the pets will eventually associate with the baby, let them explore the scents. It is probably best, however to keep your pets out of the room after the baby is home. Carefully allow your pets to see and smell your baby. Parent who panic and pull the child away when a dog or cat approaches are possibly sending the message that the baby is a threat. Plan to spend time with your pets

Let them know they **have not been replaced** in the household. Pets may fear abandonment or rejection when the focus is switched to the new baby. Plan to take regular walks or have a game of fetch with your dog, or play favorite games with your cat. Give them personal time, just you and them.

Even with these precautions, some pets may never get used to children. Like people, they either accept children or they don't. If a pet is raised around kids, generally there will be no real behavior problem. If the pet has not seen a little person before, you may have to closely supervise the interaction for a while. Also, if you have a pet that has been teased or mistreated by a child in the past, there will be significant obstacles to overcome.

As your children get older, it is imperative they learn how to respect and treat the family pet. They should know that pets feel pain and get lonely when no one is around . just like people. Praise your children for gentleness and correct them for rough and unkind behaviors toward your pets. Children should also learn that dogs naturally chase, herd, catch, and fetch. Playfully grabbing a tail or running in the yard may be a dog's invitation to chase and jump . a very natural response for a dog.

Remember in many instances, your pets were your babies first. They don't really understand what is happening. Find ways to show them you love them just as much as always. Take quiet walks or hang out in the yard on a cool summer evening. Make meal times special times to be with you. A little bit of affection goes a long way toward making your furry family members happy

# FLEAS AND TICKS

Fleas and ticks may pose a very real threat to the health and comfort of your pet. In addition to extreme discomfort, fleas and ticks can also cause serious health problems in pets and people.

## Fleas



Few creatures can inflict more misery, ounce for ounce, than fleas. These tiny, **almost invisible** pests can make life miserable and disrupt your household with a vicious cycle of **biting and scratching**. Fleas may also cause **flea allergy dermatitis** in some pets.

## Ticks



Often too tiny to be seen, ticks **attach to pets** and feed on blood until they are engorged. They thrive in high humidity and moderate temperatures, but can be found all over the country. Ticks may **carry and transmit diseases**, including Lyme disease, that can cause **serious health problems** for pets

At

**Murphy Road Animal Hospital, we recommend Vectra 3D for prevention of fleas and ticks.**



## **ADVANTAGES OF SPAYING OR NEUTERING YOUR PET**

We love our pets and want them to live a long and healthy life. One of the ways we can help your pet have a healthy life is to spay or neuter them.

The procedure prevents unwanted behaviors such as marking and aggression. It also reduces the chance of mammary cancer in females and prostatic disease in males, and controls the pet population crisis by avoiding unwanted pregnancies.

This is a surgical procedure performed optimally around 6 months of age. With the anesthetics we currently use the procedure is very safe.

Sedatives are used for initial relaxation and pain control followed by the latest and safest gas anesthesia. This allows for quick and smooth recoveries once the procedure is finished. Surgical monitors for respiration, temperature, ECG, oxygen saturation and blood pressure give a continuous update on the anesthetized patients condition.

Altering your pet will does not cause them to become fat and lazy or change their personality except to make a calmer, more devoted pet.



# Brush my Pet's WHAT?

**What would happen** if you stopped brushing your own teeth? Even if you only ate hard food as most pets do, there still would be problems. You should be brushing your pet's teeth at least twice weekly, daily if you can manage it. It's not as difficult as you might imagine.

**What are the benefits?** Brushing removes the daily accumulation of plaque from the teeth. Even though pets do not commonly get cavities, they do suffer from periodontal disease. If untreated the gum disease can lead to pain and loss of teeth.

## *How to brush your Pet's Teeth*

### **Step 1 - Select an appropriate time**

*Find a quiet, convenient time when you and your dog are both relaxed.*

### **Step 2 - Acquaint your dog with the process.**

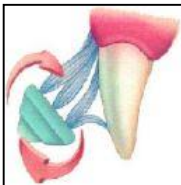
For the first few sessions don't even use a toothbrush. Hold your dog the same as when you are cuddling her. Gently stroke the *outside* of her cheeks with your finger. After she becomes comfortable with that, place a dab of toothpaste on your finger and let her taste it. We usually suggest starting with C.E.T. poultry flavored toothpaste, because pets like the taste.

### **Step 3 - Introduce the Toothbrush**

Place a small amount of toothpaste on the brush. In a slow circular motion, brush one or two teeth and the adjoining gum line. The purpose of this step is to get your dog accustomed to the feel of the brush.

### **Step 4 - Begin Brushing**

Over the next several days, gradually increase the number of teeth brushed. It is important to eventually brush the rear teeth where plaque and tartar have a greater tendency to accumulate. Go slowly and gently.. Stop brushing when *you* decide to stop, before your dog begins to fuss. If she learns to dislike the procedure and finds out that more fussing makes you stop quicker, then this brushing business is going to get harder, not easier.



Build up to about 30 seconds per side. Dogs don't get much tartar on the inside surfaces of their teeth, so you only need to worry about the outside surfaces. Be sure to brush the big teeth way in back.

### **MAKE TOOTH BRUSHING A PLEASANT EXPERIENCE. .**

*Proceed slowly and gently. Stop each session while it is still fun and lavishly praise your dog afterwards. She will soon start looking forward to tooth brushing and it will become a pleasant activity for both of you.*





# KITTEN PAGES



Gentle eyes that see so much, paws that have the quiet touch, Purrs to signal, "All is well" and s how more love than words could tell. Graceful movements touched with pride, a calming presence by our side. A friendship that takes time to grow.

Small wonder why we love them so.

**Author Unknown**



## Kitten Nutrition

Providing your kitten with a complete, well-balanced diet is a simple thing you can do to help protect its health. Ask your veterinarian to recommend a commercial diet that is specifically designed to meet the nutritional needs of growing kittens. While most commercial kitten foods are complete and well balanced, the more expensive diets tend to use higher quality ingredients.

Kittens are carnivores with high protein requirements. In general, cats have higher protein requirements than dogs. Growing kittens need even more protein to develop healthy body tissue. When choosing a diet, check the ingredient list on the label. Since U.S. labels must list ingredients in descending order of predominance by weight, look for a commercial diet that lists a high quality protein, such as poultry, fish, egg yolk or cheese as one of the first ingredients.

Which is better . dry, semi-moist, or canned food? Dry foods provide a hard, abrasive surface that helps to keep your kitten's teeth clean. Semi-moist foods are convenient, but they tend to be more expensive. Canned foods can contain up to 75% water, and are a good way to keep your kitten well hydrated if it doesn't drink a lot of water. It's best to avoid inexpensive, canned foods, because they often contain lower quality proteins such as gristle, skin and entrails, and they may have a higher ash content, which can contribute to the development of stones in the urinary tract. If eating a well balanced, high quality food, kittens do not need any vitamin supplements.

Although kittens like to drink milk, they don't have the enzymes to digest it. That's why feeding milk can lead to stomach upset and diarrhea.

Most young kittens do well with four small meals a day until about three months of age. Then gradually reduce the number of meals until he/she is receiving two meals a day at about six months of age. Follow label instructions for total daily recommended food quantity.

Never change diets abruptly. Sudden changes in diet can result in stomach upset and diarrhea. Any diet changes should be made gradually, by mixing decreasing quantities of the original diet with increasing quantities of the new diet over a period of a week to ten days.

Make sure your kitten always has access to plenty of clean, fresh water. Some cats prefer running water. Commercially available Cat Water Fountains can be a good idea.

It's helpful to monitor your kitten's weight. Overeating can lead to obesity. Table scraps should be avoided, as they can lead to finicky behaviors and a less-than-balanced diet.

If your kitten hasn't eaten in over 24 hours, call your veterinarian at Murphy Road Animal Hospital  
972-496-4126



## Your Kittens Wellness Plan

Below you will find our vaccine and kitten visit protocols for your new kitten. Vaccines are an important part of your kitten's next few months. As he/she grows, they will receive vaccines every 3 weeks to keep their immune system working at peak performance. All kittens receive deworming medication. If the fecal examination shows other parasites, additional medication may be needed.

***At 6 – 9 weeks we will discuss vaccines, litter box issues, behavioral issues, outside vs inside etc.***

We recommend bringing a fecal sample in order to test for intestinal parasites. Your kitten will be given a prophylactic dewormer. Should your kitten's fecal test show positive an additional dewormer may be given.

The Veterinarian will perform a complete physical examination to be certain your new kitten is in good physical condition

**The recommended vaccine given at this visit is:**

**FVRCP** (Feline virus rhinotracheitis, Calici Virus, Panleukopenia, Distemper)

**At 10 - 13 weeks we will revisit the above issues, add oral care and address any new ones you may have**

- Fecal repeated if previously positive
- If necessary an appropriate dewormer will be given
- A feline leukemia, FIV test will be performed.
- The Veterinarian will perform a complete physical examination to be sure your kitten is growing and maintaining good physical condition

**The recommended vaccines are:**

**FVRCP** (Feline virus rhinotracheitis, Calici Virus, Panleukopenia, Distemper)

**At 14 - 16 weeks we will revisit the above issues and address any new ones you may have**

If necessary an appropriate dewormer will be given

The Veterinarian will perform a complete physical examination to be sure your kitten is growing and maintaining good physical condition

**The recommended vaccines are:**

**Rabies**

**Feline Leukemia** -we use the newest technology with Merial's Vet Jet which is an intradermal injection method. It does not use a needle, but administers the vaccine into the skin.

**We recommend neutering and spaying your kitten between 5 and 6 months.**

## INTRODUCING A NEW CAT INTO A HOUSE WITH EXISTING CATS

From the American Association of Feline Practitioners

When introducing a new cat, initially isolate it in a separate room with its own food, water, litter box, and toys. This allows each cat to gradually adjust to the scent and sounds of the other cat. Once a veterinarian has deemed cats healthy, limited interaction may occur under the door.

Continue the gradual introduction by exchanging bedding between cats and rubbing a cloth around one cat's mouth and leaving that cloth in the other cat's space, or rubbing a cloth alternately on each cat. As cats start to exhibit curiosity about each other, reward friendly behavior with treats and praise.

At this point, short, supervised, direct interactions can begin. For the initial exposure, have one cat in a carrier and allowing the other cat to approach. Feeding both cats at the same time can reduce stress as well. Following this, allow cats to walk around and sniff each other. Continue to reward friendly behavior. Gradually increase the supervised time together.

Do not leave the cats together unsupervised until several supervised interactions without aggression have occurred. The process of introducing a new cat may take several weeks. Older cats may need a quiet space away from kittens for an extended period of time. Friendly, well-socialized cats may adapt to each other rapidly.

Pheromonal products may ease the introduction, but should be used in conjunction with gradual introduction.



## **Environment Enrichment Enhances Quality of Life for Your Cat**

*From the American Association of Feline Practitioners*

**Providing an enriched environment** can increase activity, decrease mental stagnation, and prevent many behavior problems. Cats need mental stimulation. An enriched environment will give cats the opportunities to create their own positive experiences.

**Vertical space** is highly desirable for cats and increases the overall space available to the cat. Provide cat trees, preferably with hiding spots, cat perches, and shelves.

### **Scratching is normal cat behavior.**

Provide acceptable scratching materials (e.g. scratching posts). To train your cat to use the post, reward with treats and praise. Also put catnip, treats and toys on or near the post. Scratching posts should be sturdy, and made of materials cats prefer (usually wood, sisal rope, inexpensive cardboard or rough fabric). Locate the scratching post next to a window, sleeping area, or another favorite area. Some cats prefer vertical scratching posts while others prefer horizontal ones.

**Interactive** toys and hunting games allow cats to stalk and catch; play several times a day with a solitary indoor cat

**Keep the home environment** predictable, but without rigidity or boredom. Make small changes that provide novelty. Studies indicate that cats play best and most often with toys which also use human interaction. Rotated or new toys hold cats' curiosity and interest for longer periods of time.

**Cats in the wild** eat 10-20 small meals per day. By making all food available in the bowl, foraging time for indoor cat has been reduced to a few minutes per day, as compared with the hours needed for natural foraging. This contributes to the obesity problems in cats, which can lead to various disorders, as well as early death.

### **To make feeding more natural for the cat:**

- Food puzzles, interactive food toys, and / or food balls
- Make homemade food puzzles from a cardboard box or a plastic beverage bottle with holes cut into it
- Hide food in different places around the house, and in or around new objects so that cats can hunt for their food. Boxes, bags, and carriers that are left out provide nice hiding for cats
- Outdoor enclosures for cats protect them from injury while still allowing outdoor exposure

## Environment Enrichment Enhances Quality of Life for Your Cat Continued

### **Social companionship.**

- Cats are social animals. They need companionship and mental stimulation. Social companionship can be in the form of gentle petting and stroking, feeding, grooming, and play. If cat owners are away for a large part of the day, it may be helpful for their cat to have another cat to interact with.
- Do not let your kitten or cat bite your hands or feet. If your kitten is doing this, substitute a toy to bite on instead.
- In a multiple cat household, set up several stations, with litter boxes, food and water, throughout the home. With these critical resources available at more than one site, cats have choices, which can be important.

### **Preventing startle.**

To enhance the cat's coping skills, make regular small changes in the environment to provide novelty. For anticipated changes in the family, such as adding a new pet or baby, prepare the environment and introduce the cat gradually to these changes. For example, when moving, first introduce the cat to a small, comfortable space in the new place, which has been previously stocked with favorite items such as toys or the owner's clothing. When the cat has adjusted to this environment, gradually increase the new space available to the cat.

### **Cats can be trained and enjoy the associated attention.**

- Reward cats with treats or positive attention to encourage desired behavior.
- Redirect undesired behavior.
- Do not punish; don't swat, slap, or yell at the cat.
- Train under calm, fun conditions using positive reinforcement (e.g. treats, toys, massage, praise)
- Cats can learn to sit, come, and do a variety of other tricks. Start with things your cat already likes to do.
- You can also train your cat to allow teeth brushing, nail trimming, and grooming.
- When negative reinforcement is appropriate, it may be easily accomplished with noise such as a can with pennies. It will have the added advantage of not requiring aim such as with a spray bottle.

## HOW TO PREVENT CATS FROM SCRATCHING IN UNDESIRABLE AREAS

From the American Association of Feline Practitioners

SCRATCHING IS **NORMAL** cat behavior, serving to groom the front claws and leave markers of the cat's presence.

Cats may also scratch to stretch their muscles.

Proper training to scratch on appropriate surfaces, combine with nail care, can prevent damage in the home. The following information is pertinent in choosing a scratching post:

- *Many cats prefer vertical scratching posts; some prefer horizontal ones.*
- *Vertical scratching posts must be sturdy and preferably tall enough for the cat to have a good stretch*
- *Scratching materials preferred by most cats are wood, sisal rope, and rough fabric.*
- *Locate scratching posts near areas favored by cats, such as windows or sleeping areas since cats often stretch and scratch upon awakening.*

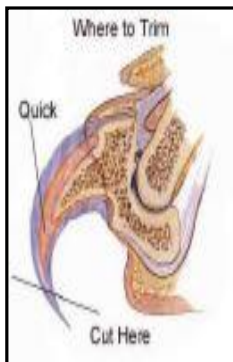


Start training your new kitten or cat to use scratching posts when first introduced to your home. Cats return to favorite or chosen scratching sites, so motivate them to use the scratching post you select and avoid letting them use the furniture. This can be done by enticing your cat to the post upon awakening, rubbing catnip on the post, and holding treats or toys partway up the post to encourage stretching and scratching. You can secure an appealing toy, such as feathers, at the top of the post. Rewards can be given at each step . as the cat approaches the post, touches it, and finally scratches it. Never yell at or punish the cat.

If your cat already scratches in an undesirable area, talk to your veterinarian or veterinary staff member. They will help determine your cat's likely preferences . for a vertical or horizontal scratching post, for the type of material that will draw the cat to the post, for the location of the post. You can then make or purchase posts of similar fabrics.

**Place double-sided sticky tape** on inappropriate areas and reward use of the post. This helps direct the cat to the post. If necessary, the cat can be confined to an area where the scratching post is the only available scratching outlet. This establishes use of the scratching post and prevents inadvertent reinforcement for scratching off-limits household items.

**Trim the tips** of the nails every one or two weeks. If done correctly, this procedure is well accepted by most cats. Introduce nail trimming as part of routine handling to kittens.



**Plastic nail caps**, applied every 4-6 weeks, are an option for cats that are easy to handle. After trimming nail tips, fill the cap about a third of the way with adhesive, and fit the cap over the nail. The soft plastic covers prevents furniture damage when the cat scratches.

*Declawing remains controversial but does stop furniture destruction. For more information, consult your veterinarian. Both the American Association of Feline Practitioners and the American Veterinary Medical Association promote training to use the scratching post and discourage declawing as a surgical procedure. You can read their position statements and acquire additional information at their websites, [www.aafponline.org](http://www.aafponline.org) and [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org) .*

## **PROTOCOL FOR CATS WITH PLAY AGGRESSION**

Cats experience early kitten hood stages of both social play (3 to 12 weeks of age) and social fighting (14+ weeks of age). Much of kitten play is associated with skills useful for later hunting behavior. In fact, play becomes particularly well developed at about 6 to 8 weeks of age when cats develop good eye-paw coordination and are able to sense and respond to olfactory threats. Cats are superb solitary hunters and can begin to show independent predatory behavior by 5 weeks of age. Their mothers begin to teach predatory behavior as early as 3 weeks of age, and in large cat groups family members will continue to guide hunting skills for months. Studies have shown that cats that are weaned early (orphaned kittens that are hand-raised by humans or those born to mothers that are ill or do not have enough milk) exhibit very early predatory behavior and that predatory behavior replaced some play behaviors.

These normal cat behaviors are seen in an intensified form with play aggression. Play aggression is usually directed toward people but certainly can be directed toward other, generally older, animals in the household.

Play aggression is usually associated with early weaning and a shift to more predatory behaviors or with rough play from clients. In the former case the kitten plays roughly because its brothers and sisters or mother does not correct it when it hurts them. There is also probably some component of the actual way cats play with each other, when compared with the way they play with people that is important but unexplored. In the latter case the kittens are taught to play aggressively by the people.

### **Treatment of play aggression focuses on three major strategies:**

- Avoiding the circumstances that encourage the cat to play in this manner.
- Being attentive to the behaviors that are associated with the play aggression and interrupting (correcting those).
- Giving the cat a more appropriate outlet for its play and energy.

**Cat bites and scratches cause disease.** They can be seriously dangerous to someone who is already ill, is immunocompromised, or has poor circulation. You are not being mean by controlling your cat's aggression. If anything, your relationship with your cat will improve.

Learn to recognize **the early signs of play aggression** in your cat. Play aggressive cats will hide behind doors or around banisters, crouching and waiting for any movement. They then will spring, using both teeth and claws, before quickly fleeing. Expect the cats to hide in these locations and beware; correct the cat at the first sign of any of these behaviors. Some cats will startle at the sound of a loud noise like a clap; some need a stronger stimulus such as a water pistol, foghorn, or compressed air canister. Cats that like to play in water may not respond to water. The point is not to bathe or mist the cat; the point is to startle the cat so that it aborts the aggressive attack. Startle, which is a form of punishment, works best if it interrupts the cat in the act of committing the inappropriate behavior. The earlier in the sequence of events that this happens, the better.



## **PROTOCOL FOR CATS WITH PLAY AGGRESSION continued**

### **Do not physically punish the cat.**

This only teaches the cat that you will play back roughly, and the cat will respond with intensified violence. Further more if the cat is small or a young kitten, you could seriously injure the cat. People observe that mothers carry kittens around by the neck with their teeth and reason that kittens will not be hurt by pinches and so on. This is not true, cats have extremely sensitive pressure receptors around their face and at the base of their teeth and can correct kittens in ways humans can not. Further more cats are often communicating other information to the kitten at that time that we are not capable of evaluating.

### **Put a bell on the cat's collar (use a breakaway collar).**

This is particularly important for cats that play with your moving body parts or clothing or those that are adept at hiding and waiting for you to pass by. Many of these cats hide under furniture and then attack toes when you sit down and move your feet. The bell will let you know exactly where the cat is and will allow you to do steps 1 and 2 above.

### **Do not play roughly with your hands.**

Do not wrestle with the cat, grab the cat by the head and shake it, move your hands back and forth so that the cat chases them, or pull the cat's tail. Whenever you are playing with the cat you must use a toy. If you do not use a toy, the cat will not learn to distinguish your body parts from items of play. If the cat misses the toy and grabs or scratches your hand or arm, stop the play and act mortally wounded. If you cannot make a sound that will startle the cat or if that is not your style, you can quickly blow in the cat's face. The point is to startle the cat so that it stops the aggressive even and learns from that experience. If it is done correctly, this action will decrease the probability of the cat exhibiting the inappropriate behavior in the future. There are many stuffed kitty toys on the market or you can make some from stuffed socks. Make sure that the toys you chose for your cat do not have loose threads or parts that can be chewed off; these can easily become lodged in the cat's intestines. Check your cat's toys for wear frequently and replace them if they are damaged or if you are in doubt.

### **Increase the amount of your cat's aerobic exercise.**

You can throw rolled-up tin foil or paper for the cat to bat around the room. You can rig a scratching post so that the cat gets a treat if it scratches energetically at the top of the post. If your cat likes catnip, you can use a toy system with catnip "mice" and springs that are attached to kitty condos. You can attach a toy to an extendible, flexible, elastic roping that you tie to your waist that way, wherever you walk the cat will be able to chase a moving toy.

If all else fails or if you are not averse to it and your cat is young or is a kitten, **consider getting another cat.** You should try to select one that is also outgoing; you do not want a very young Kitten that could be injured by your cat's rough play. Another cat often provides the perfect foil for your cat's aggressive play. Cats are more social than is commonly appreciated. It is not much more difficult to care for a second cat, and the company will provide your cat with an additional outlet for play. Furthermore, if the second cat plays appropriately, it will be able to correct your aggressive cat in a way that makes sense within a feline social system.

Make sure that your cat has its claws trimmed and kept short. If your cat uses a scratching post covered with sandpaper, this is very easy. Regardless, provide your cat with something besides you to scratch. Logs, scratching posts, and tree branches can be useful.

**If your cat persists in its aggressive play, banish it to another room.** When the cat is calm, let the cat out and repeat the above instructions. Most play is about attention-eventually this will work.

**If the cat injures anyone, seek immediate competent medical help.**

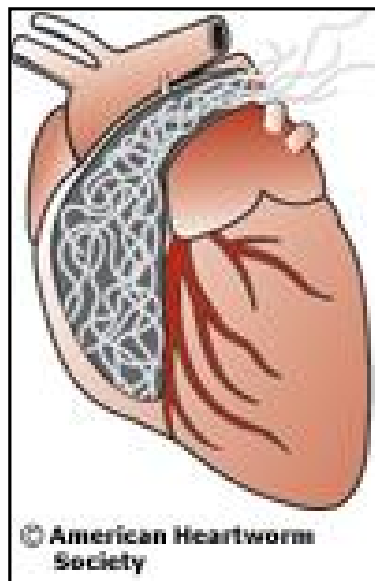
## **HEARTWORM DISEASE IN CATS**

Heartworm infections are a risk for cats in all areas throughout the world, with Antarctica being the only exception. Heartworm disease in cats was initially thought to be a medical curiosity, too rare to warrant any testing or preventative measures. However, recent studies indicate that heartworm is a problem in cats ANYWHERE it is a problem for dogs! All in all, the signs of heartworm disease in cats are vague, making diagnosis difficult. Cats can have a more dramatic reaction to the worm than dogs. Even one worm can cause reaction in the lining of the cat's heart and arteries and that is what causes the symptoms

Heartworm disease in cats usually appears as a respiratory problem. Coughing, increased respiratory effort, vomiting, lethargy, anorexia or even asthma-like symptoms like wheezing can be associated with feline heartworm disease.

Heartworms are thin, but large, string-like worms that are transmitted by some mosquitoes. They bite a heartworm-infected animal then can transmit it to the next animal they bite.

You can make a difference in your cats susceptibility to heartworms by using a heartworm preventative designed specifically for felines. Currently, there are three products on the market, Revolution and Heartgard.





(*Ancylostoma tubaeforme*).

### REVOLUTION FOR CATS

Revolution is the first-ever FDA-approved, topically applied medication for cats that:

- Kills adult fleas (*Ctenocephalides felis*) and prevents flea eggs from hatching
- Prevents heartworm disease caused by *Dirofilaria immitis*
- treats and controls ear mites (*Otodectes cynotis*)
- treats and controls roundworms (*Toxocara cati*) and hookworms



### HEARTGARD for Cats

This product is highly effective in preventing heartworm disease. All you have to do to protect your cat from the threat of heartworm disease is give HEARTGARD for Cats once a month or use as otherwise directed by your veterinarian. Only HEARTGARD for Cats comes in a palatable meaty chewable formulation. HEARTGARD for Cats also removes and controls hookworms in kittens as young as 6 weeks of age . from the very first dose.

## **HOW TO HELP YOUR CAT HAVE PLEASANT VETERINARY VISITS**

**Fear is the primary cause of misbehavior.**  
Knowing this can help prevent problematic veterinary visits.

### **Getting the cat into the carrier**

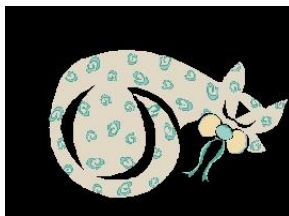
- Keep the carrier out in the home. Put treats inside. Train cats to view the carrier as a safe haven and ~~home~~ away from home+. A quick response is crucial in case of disaster or emergency.
- Carriers that have both a top and a front opening are best. Top-loading carriers allow for stress-free placement and removal of the cat. A removable carrier top enables cats to be examined while remaining in the bottom half of the carrier.

### **Adjusting to car rides**

- Always put the cat in a carrier or other safe container.
- Take the cat for regular car rides, beginning with very short ones, to places other than the veterinary hospital.
- To prevent carsickness, do not feed before traveling.
- Reward verbally, with positive attention, and with treats.

### **Pleasant veterinary visits**

- Bring along the cat's favorite treats, toys and blanket.
- Perform regular home maintenance procedures, including grooming, nail trimming, teeth brushing.
- ~~Play~~ Vet+procedures that mimic temperature taking, ear cleaning, and pilling can help cats better adjust to the veterinary hospital and to future home care when necessary.
- Regular trips to the veterinary hospital for ~~fun~~+visits involving no examinations or procedures provide owners and staff with the opportunity to reward the cat with praise and food treats.



## What Cats think of Their Litter Box

### **Cats like bathrooms as clean if not cleaner than we do.**

The average cat urinates two to three times daily and defecates once daily. Change all the litter and clean the box completely once a week. If your cat's box is several years old, give his bathroom a makeover with a fresh new box.

### **Cats do not like small bathrooms.**

Your cat should be able to easily turn around in the litter box. When the bathroom gets a makeover, be sure to purchase a large enough box. Older cats can suffer from arthritis making it difficult to climb into the box. You may need to cut a low side for easy access into the litter box for him.

### **Cats like their own bathroom.**

Most cats don't like to share a little box with housemates. Be sure to have a separate litter box for each cat in your home and an extra one won't hurt either.

### **Cats think carpet is magic.**

When a cat urinates on carpeting, the urine instantly soaks up into the carpet and padding. The urine disappears into the carpet and we later clean it. This makes carpet an ideal place for cats to urinate. Making the litter box a more attractive place for your cat to eliminate will change their opinion.

### **Cats bury their waste.**

Normal cat elimination consists of a cat first scratching in the litter, eliminating and covering the waste, and then he might not like the litter. Try using a different type of litter. A light weight scoopable litter is preferred by most cats. Two favorites are Cat Attract Litter and The Worlds Best Cat Litter.

### **Cats do not like perfumes in the bathroom.**

Many perfumes added to cat litter only mask a dirty box. Remember cats like a clean bathroom. They are very sensitive to different smells and fragrances. Most cats prefer unscented litter.

### **Cats do not like to eat in the bathroom.**

It may be more convenient to have your cat's food and water next to the litter box, but most cats don't want to eat right next to their litter box.

### **Cats do not like caves.**

Covered litter boxes are just like caves. We like them because they control odor and we don't like them to have a look at what is inside. Cats think of them like a Port-o-Potty. Keeping the box uncovered and very clean will encourage your cat to use the litter box instead.

### **Cats do not like exercise.**

If you have a large home or a two story home, you may need to put a litter box at both ends or on each floor.

### **Cats do not like to walk the gauntlet to find their litter box.**

If your cat has to walk past the dog who likes to chase him, then he may find a more convenient place to eliminate.

