

# The Cat's Gazette

Volume 1, Issue 1

All the News That's Fit to Print

Spring/Summer 2011

## Mission Statement

"To provide gentle, loving compassionate health care for all cats, in a warm, friendly environment that is conducive to high quality feline medicine & surgery"

## AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

Cats are available for adoption through MADAC and have been spayed/neutered, vaccinated, Feline Leukemia tested, and microchipped. We get both purebred and mixed breed cats and kittens. Stop in and check them out—maybe you'll go home with a new friend!

## Meet the Doctors:

Dr. Kathryn Christensen— Graduate of UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. Loves Abyssinian cats and reading mystery/ suspense novels, solving puzzles

Dr. Nikki Seibert— Graduate of UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. Breeds & shows Japanese Bobtail cats, as well as occasional other breeds.

Dr. Kara Escutia— Graduate of University of Illinois School of Veterinary Medicine. Loves cats and looks forward to working in a cat only clinic.

## Welcome to our Practice

We would like to introduce you to our new doctor.

Dr. Kara Escutia is a recent graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Veterinary Medicine, where she also received her undergraduate degree in Animal Science. She was very active in the student chapter of the American Association of

Feline Practitioners, as well as helping out at the local humane society. She enjoys working with cats and is especially interested in weight management problems and behavior issues. Outside of veterinary medicine, she was a coach for the Special Olympics track and field, and enjoys biking, hiking, running, rollerblading, and



making stained glass windows. Her current furry roommates are Bagel and Butter.

## Meet the New Clinic Cats!



Since the last newsletter was published, all of our original clinic cats have passed away. Many of you are familiar with our current residents—Claude, Shawn and Simon. If you check our website at

[www.catdr98.com](http://www.catdr98.com) you can see photos of all of them. Shawn and Simon have a weight problem, so you may see them being fed in their food balls— it helps slow down their eating and makes

them work for it, not to mention stimulates their minds. Simon and Claude are often in the waiting room but Shawn is usually in the back because he opens bags of food and pigs out!

# Getting your Cat to the Clinic

Sometimes the hardest part of a veterinary appointment is getting your cat to the clinic. Some cats vomit in the car because they are actually carsick; for those cats, house calls may be the answer, or anti-motion sickness medication. For the rest of the kitties, it just may take some planning and conditioning.

## Getting your cat in the Carrier

- If you don't already own a carrier, there are a couple of things you should keep in mind when buying one.

Be sure it is convenient for you, your cat, and your veterinarian.

Keeping the carrier out in your home and putting treats inside helps you to train your cat to see the carrier as a safe place

- There are many carriers on the market, be sure to choose one that has a top opening, as well as a side opening.

Top-loading carriers are much easier to place your cat inside.

Others include carriers in which the top half is removable so

that the cat can remain in the carrier during the examination.

- Always remove your cat carefully from the carrier, never "dump" the cat out of the carrier.

## Adjusting to Car Rides

- When traveling with your cat in the car, always put it in a carrier or other protective container. This is safer for both of you, rather than allowing the cat to roam freely.

- To make your cat comfortable in the car, take the cat to places other than the veterinarian's office.

- Because cats travel best on an empty stomach, do not feed your cat for several hours before travel.

- Start with short rides at first, then

gradually extend the length of the ride.

- After each successful car trip, reward your cat with positive attention and treats.

## Pleasant Veterinary Visits

- To make your cat feel at home, bring your cat's favorite treats and toys with you.
- When at home, practice regular care routines like grooming and nail trimming.
- Pretend to do routine veterinary procedures with your cat, such as touching your cat's face, ears, feet, and tail.
- Make trips to the veterinary clinic for visits that involve no examinations or procedures,

such as weighing the cat. It gives the staff a chance to interact with your cat in a non-threatening way

**"When a cat adopts you there is nothing to be done about it except to put up with it until the wind changes"**

**TS Eliot**

## Claude's Critics Corner

Like most cats, Claude has strong opinions about things. He also likes to read (ok, so he doesn't actually read, he absorbs the knowledge by lying across the book like every other cat) and he has given us some of his favorite cat related authors. For mystery buffs, there is

always the *Cat Who* series by Lillian Jackson Braun & the Mrs. Murphy series by Rita Mae Brown and her cat Sneaky Pie Brown. *The Cat, the Quilt and the Professor* by Leanne Sweeney is a new series, as is *Curiosity Thrilled the Cat* by Sofie



Kelly, along with the Cat in the Stacks series by Miriam James. Two popular non-fiction books include *Homer's Odyssey* by Gwen

Cooper and *Dewey the Library Cat* by Vicki Myron. Claude hopes you enjoy these reads, and will be on the lookout for more.

# Is Your Cat Thinking Outside The Box?

Inappropriate elimination is the number one reason for cats to be surrendered to a shelter. One in every ten cats will have a litter box lapse in his or her lifetime. Here are some things to help encourage your cat to "think inside the box" :

**Get a checkup**—Underlying medical problems are a common cause of litter box lapses; regular checkups are also the best way to keep your cat healthy. Make sure your cat is spayed/neutered.

**Keep it clean**—Most cats are very particular about their litter box, and will not use it if it isn't clean. (Think porta potty!) Scoop the box daily, and dump and clean it at least every other week. Replace boxes that are more than 1 year old.

**Take the litmus test**—There are 3 main types of litter: clay based non-clumping, clay based clumping, and "natural" litters (corn, wheat, wood). Find the litter that best suits your cat.

**Provide some privacy**—Place the box in a quiet, accessible location that will be comfortable to the cat. Some cats prefer a location where they can't be cornered, and they like to have more than one exit. In a multi-level home, one box per floor is often helpful. Make sure the box is large enough for the cat.

**Count how many cats are in the household**—the more cats there are, the more likely there will be a problem. In households with more than 5 cats, 90% will have a problem with inappropriate urination.

## Deadly Lilies

With summer here, many of us will be planting flowers in our gardens and bringing cut flowers into our homes. We need to remember that lilies of any type, while beautiful, are extremely toxic to cats. Tiger Lily, Asiatic Lily, and Easter Lily, as well as Day Lilies, cause kidney failure in cats with the majority of cats dying from acute kidney failure.

All parts of the lily plant are toxic, in-

cluding the pollen, and consuming even minute amounts can cause severe poisoning. Within 24 hours of ingestion, a cat will begin to show symptoms including vomiting, lethargy, and lack of appetite. As the kidney damage progresses, the signs worsen. Without prompt treatment from

your veterinarian, your cat will develop kidney failure and probably die within 72 hours. Cats that are treated within

12 hours of ingestion usually survive.

Treatment involves hospitalization on IV fluids for 3 days to flush the toxins through the kidney.

**"If man could be crossed with a cat it would improve man, but it would deteriorate the cat."**  
mark twain

## Employees

Lisa Stempniewski, LVT—Licensed technician. Loves "flat-faced" kitties such as Exotic Shorthairs and Scottish Folds. Has 1 daughter.

Kelly Doherty, CVT—Certified technician. Loves torties and calico cats, but also has a Savannah..

Jen Christianson—Receptionist/vet assistant. Has a Siamese and a DSH, but really loves Sphynx cats. Is planning on going to Vet School.

Cassie Sacotte—Part time receptionist. In graduate school, loves cats and has 2 mixed breed cats.

Bill Dick—Part-time receptionist. Loves torties and calicos, has a calico & a Siamese mix. Plays trumpet.

Katelyn Berens-Part-time receptionist/vet assistant, currently cat-less.

Sara, Linda, Jena, and Liz are our cat caretakers and cleaning crew.

## The Cat's Gazette

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### OFFICE HOURS

MON & WED:  
7:30 A.M.-7 P.M.

TUES, THURS, FRI:  
7:30 A.M.-6 P.M.

SAT:  
8 A.M.-1 P.M.

IN CASE OF AN AFTER  
HOURS EMERGENCY  
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24 HR EMERGENCY CLINICS ARE  
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TER FOR ANIMALS 414-543-7387

WAUKESHA VETERINARY REFER-  
RAL CENTER 866-542-3241

## We Now Do Housecalls!

Due to popular demand, we now do house calls on a regular basis. In the past, we did house calls for people desiring in home euthanasia, but now do routine exams, vaccinations, blood work, follow up exams, etc. This has proven to be popular with people that are house bound, for cats that hate car rides, and for some of the cats that become aggressive in the clinic. Both doctors enjoy being able to provide this service and enjoy seeing their patients in their "natural" environment. This is also very helpful for some behavior problems as well, as we can see what the situation is and how it affects the

cat. There are some situations that aren't conducive to house calls, such as extremely sick cats that would be better served in the clinic where some laboratory results are available immediately, cats that need to have x-rays or ultrasound done, and cats that will need to be hospitalized. Grooming also needs to be done in the clinic, or have a mobile groomer handle it. Some owners find that their cats are actually better in an office visit, so house calls aren't necessarily for everyone, but if you want to have a house call, just let the receptionist know.